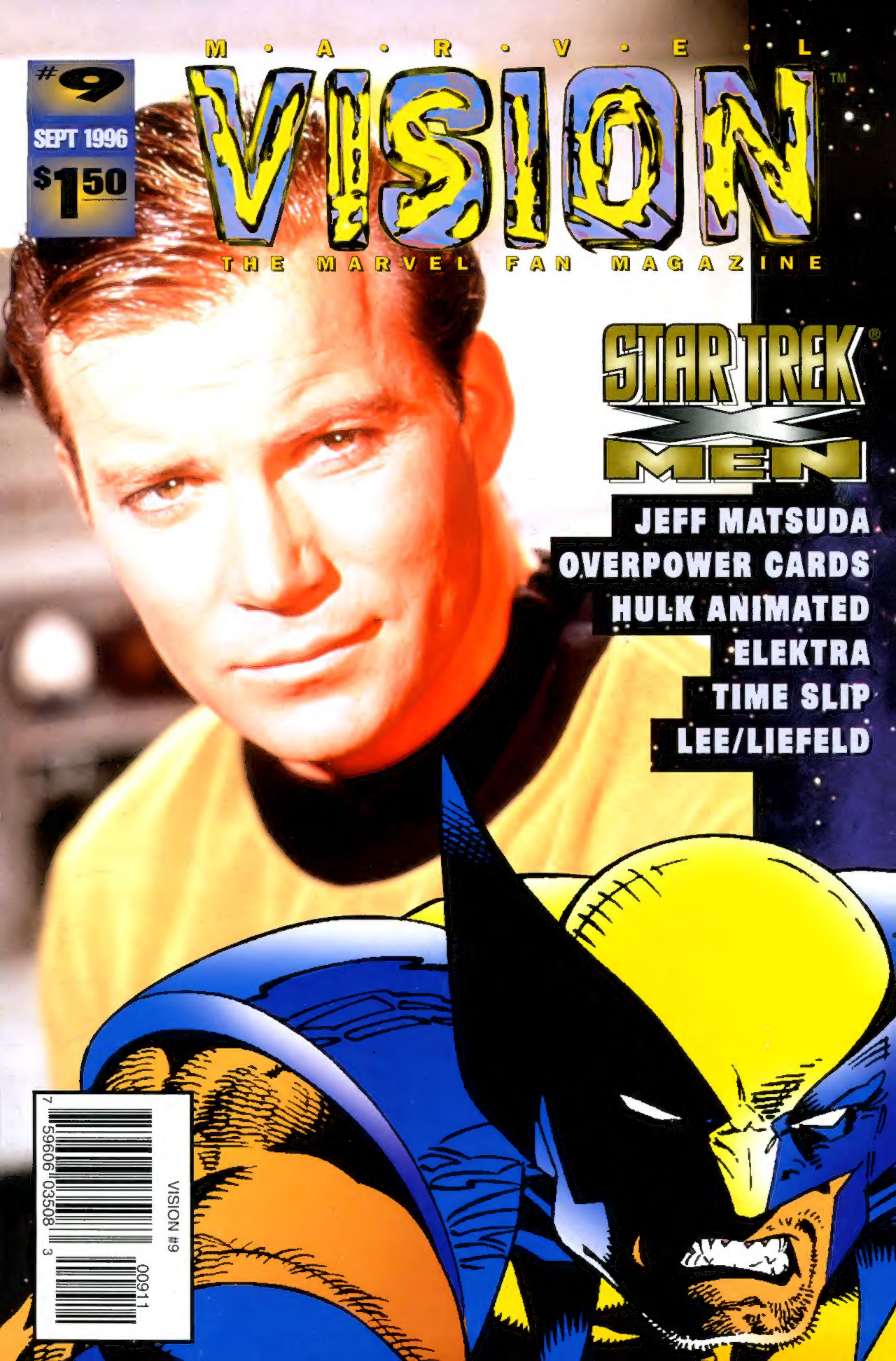

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#9
SEPT 1996
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Marvel VISION #9

September 1996

Space, The Final Frontier.

I can remember the first time that I heard William Shatner speak those words. I was about eight years old and didn't really think too much about the show. The Enterprise was really cool looking, so cool looking that I've spent the better part of my life building model after model of each incarnation of that famous ship. But the content of the show at times flew over my head faster than warp seven. I even remember trying to convince my father that the show was actually called "Star Track," never having heard the word "Trek" before. As time went on, my opinion of the show changed dramatically. Yes folks, I was a "trekkie." Now, of course, the politically correct term is "TREKKER" but that doesn't stop my girlfriend from calling me the former.

Then came the movies. Who doesn't like II and IV? Then the *"Next Generation,"* then the Kira Nerys show...uh, I mean *"Deep Space Nine,"* then *"Voyager"* and now...you knew this was going somewhere: Marvel Comics and Paramount Pictures have teamed up and are bringing Star Trek to the Marvel Universe in STAR TREK/X-MEN. I'm really excited about this and I hope you will be too.

That's not all, though. There's our interview with X-FACTOR penciler Jeff Matsuda, the Hulk animated show, the Lee/Liefeld countdown, ELEKTRA, VISION's usual bag o' fun stuff and much more, so sit tight and hold on.

Ahead Warp One. Engage.
Live Long and Prosper.
I'm done.

TIM TUOHY

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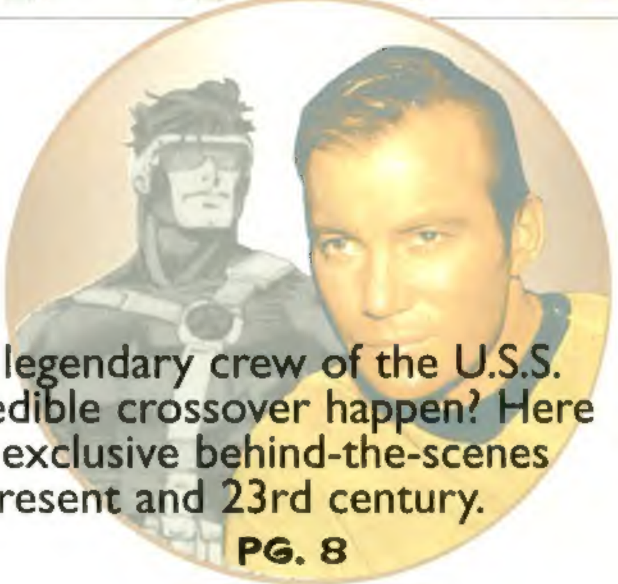

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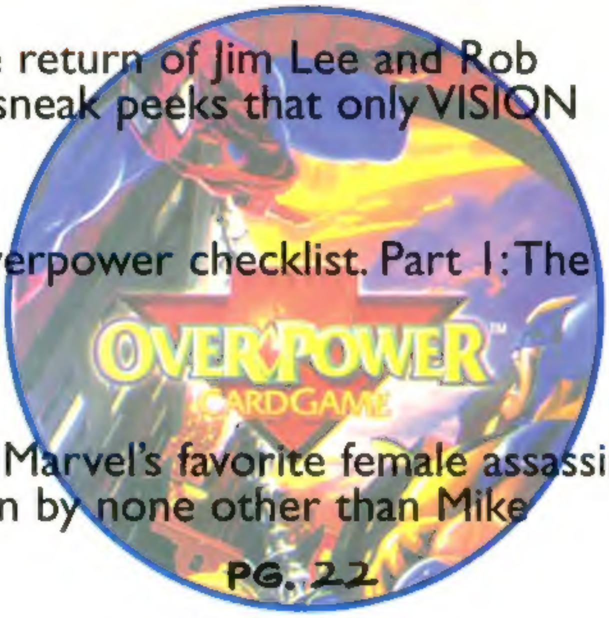

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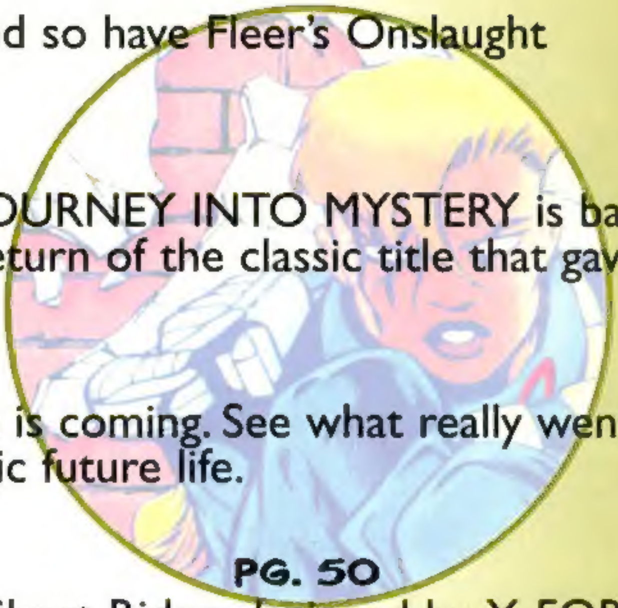

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MARVEL VISION™ Vol. 1, No. 9 September, 1996. *Published by MARVEL COMICS, Gerard Calabrese, President, Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. APPLICATION TO MAIL AT SECOND CLASS POSTAGE IS PENDING AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1996 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $2.10 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $18.00 U.S.; Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852; $30.00 Foreign. Any statements expressed or implied in MARVEL VISION are solely those of the columnists and do not represent the editorial position of the publisher or MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. MARVEL VISION and all Marvel character names (and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. All non-Marvel artwork is Copyright © and trademark of the respective owners. Star Trek and its related marks are ™ & © 1996 Paramount Pictures, all rights reserved. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO VISION, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1979, DANBURY, CT 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. Printed in Canada.*

VISION INSIGHTS

c/o Marvel Comics 387 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10016
Letters for publication must include your name and address; we will withhold that information at your request

Dear Marvel VISION,

I'm 13 years old and a very big fan of Marvel. I love your comics very much. I buy UNCANNY X-MEN, X-FACTOR, X-MEN, THE ADVENTURES OF THE X-MEN, GENERATION X, CABLE, WOLVERINE, X-MAN, EXCALIBUR, X-MEN 2099, X-MEN UNLIMITED, AVENGERS, FANTASTIC FOUR, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN and SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED. I think you can say that I am a real fan. I'm also going to start collecting X-FORCE and SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN.

Could you guys give me a list of the CD-ROMs that are available of the X-Men? Enough about that, because I'm gonna give you my reaction to your fan magazine. It's incredible, amazing and fabulous!!!

In "Insights" I read the letter by Andrew Tymkiw and I'm so happy that as of June you will be going to an all-new 40 page format with no increase in price. Lucky for me, because with all the comics that I read, it wouldn't be possible to collect them all.

In the article on Onslaught, Mark Waid said that if we read the X-titles carefully, we would know who Onslaught really is. I guess he's maybe 1) Magneto—look at the cover to VISION #6 at Onslaught's costume, especially his helmet. 2) Apocalypse, because he has Apocalypse's style of armor.

Finally, I want to wish you guys success with all the comics that you publish. Thanks for taking the time to read my letter.

Frederick Stevens
10 Duivenstraat
3010 Kessel-Lo
Belgium, EUROPE

Thank you for taking the time to write, Frederick. You are definitely a fan if you get and, most importantly, read all those Marvel books. Remember, collecting comics is cool but there's usually a cooler story inside. Currently there is just the one X-MEN CD-ROM out. I did have to correct your letter and amend my answer from issue #6. As you read this in June two "Marvelous" events will have occurred: select Marvel books will have gone to the new format (I was not made aware of the date change until after the letters page left for the printer) and the identity of Onslaught will have been revealed! What'd you think?

Dear VISIONaries,

Issue #6 of Marvel VISION was great, terrific...Marvel-ous! **(That sounds familiar.)** From the eye-catching cover featuring Onslaught, to the previews of the upcoming books, Marvel VISION #6 was a completely satisfying read.

A few comments and suggestions before I sign off:

1) How about an in-depth interview with the living legend, Stan Lee, sharing his views on the state of comics and the state of Marvel today?

2) How about another in-depth interview with the person I believe to be the greatest writer in comics since Stan Lee—Mark Waid? I know in issue #2 you guys did a little bio on him but how about getting in his mind and seeing what makes him write the stories he does?

3) More information on the upcoming "Unfinished Business" project with Jim Lee and Rob Liefeld. I'm not too sure where I stand with Marvel on this one. A revamped IRON MAN and FANTASTIC FOUR by Jim Lee sounds, well, fantastic. Rob Liefeld on AVENGERS and CAPTAIN AMERICA kinda scares me. I personally believe CAPTAIN AMERICA does not need revamping. Mark Waid and Ron Garney have already taken care of that.

Until Mary Jane is revealed to be a clone, Make Mine Marvel.

Anthony Aponte
635 Kesner Ave
Scaramento CA 95838

It's hard nowadays to catch Stan sitting still and get an interview out of him. He's got quite a few projects cooking but, if you really need a Stan "fix," then hopefully our two-part 35th Anniversary article, which concludes this issue, helped you out.

Mark Waid is another busy guy but don't be surprised if your wish is granted.

I live to give information on the Lee/Liefeld project. Starting last month and continuing until September, VISION will be bringing you the "Countdown to Jim and Rob's Return." If that's still not enough, then look for the cool insert pages in the back of the 40-page comics. The always on-the-ball VISION crew of designers are responsible for those, so give 'em a round

of applause. As for being scared about Rob, don't be. Remember what he did for the New Mutants.

Dear Marvel VISION,

First off, I would just like to say that regardless of some of the negative feedback that Marvel has received these last couple of years, you guys are still the greatest company out there, producing one of the great American art forms that we call comics. Anyone who does not believe me has not read VISION #6. Bob Harras, you are doing a wonderful job! I truly believe that you want what is best for the company as well as what's best for the fans. The things that you've been doing lately are fantastic! Especially keeping the books in the $1.50 price range and even lowering the prices on others! In the long run, Marvel actually wins. I have already been buying more books from you guys now because I can. It's hard to go wrong when you can get a great comic for only a buck fifty!

Being Spidey's #1 fan, I was also excited to read the interview with Ralph Macchio. Everything that Ralph said has been everything that I've been thinking. It seems that he loves this character as much as I do. I can now give a sigh of relief knowing that Spider-Man is in good hands (and hopefully the hands that will bring Pete back as Spidey).

Let me also be one of the first to congratulate you on your win in MARVEL VERSUS DC, way to go! It has been a great ride for me, these last sixteen years, and I look forward to many more. So until Ben Reilly wins a popularity contest, Make Mine Marvel!

Rick Fimple
2839 E. 6th St.
Vancouver WA 98661

You know, sometimes I think that I'm the only one in this world that likes Ben Reilly. I really think if he had been given a shot at being Spider-Man, people would've begun to accept him in the role. That, however, is only my opinion and the fans are what matters. Bob is doing an exceptional job and expect him to continue to surprise you. Especially in a future issue of GEN X, but that's all I'm going to say. Ralf, as we like to call him, does love Spider-Man very much. One of his strengths as an editor is to find what it is that really makes a character shine and then use that quality. Case in point: CAPTAIN AMERICA. Look for good things for the web-slinger. Oh, and I like the new costume too.

Dear VISION,

I can't praise you guys enough! This mag just keeps getting better. I especially love those special departments such as Time Slip and Marvel's Silliest Moments (but I'm sure you hear this all the time). **You make me blush.** However, I most enjoy your wonderful letters page background. Wonderful! Now, I have a few questions and comments:

1) Thanks to the Onslaught storyline you may have a new X-fan. I would never have purchased an X-book if not for Onslaught.

2) I am overjoyed that Dr. Strange (Marvel's greatest creation) is getting a bigger spotlight in other books nowadays. Will he be appearing in the Onslaught story?

3) My last question reminds me of a small complaint I have (my only one, though). When I decided to pick up X-MEN #50, I read the "Wish List" of other X-books and noticed that Doc Strange had made an appearance in UNCANNY X-MEN. This was not mentioned in VISION. Needless to say, I picked up the issues and thought the story was great. The letters page for those particular issues shared the same opinions but not one mentioned the good doctor. I am hoping that Doctor Strange will become even more involved with other titles, raising his popularity. After all, he is a classic Marvel character.

4) Has OVER THE EDGE been canceled?

5) The Comic Shop "Brows" is a great concept. Balder the Brave had one of the best limited series and I believe may be worth mentioning.

Well, I have nothing more to add except keep up the great work and until Doctor Strange, arguably the most powerful human on Marvel Earth, is morphed into a radish, Make Mine Marvel!

Brent Scheihagen
3341 St. Cloud Circle
Dallas TX 75229

You really seem to like reading letters pages, Brent. I always used to read them myself and actually wrote in two letters to Marvel; of course they were to the UNCANNY X-MEN. One commented on the "Days of Future Past" story and the other was when the X-Men met Dracula! Anyone remember that? The letters page background was designed by Shawn Walker and maybe, when he can get his hair out of his face or gets ahead on the Mega Marvel, he'll design a new one. Now for your questions/comments:

1) Glad you liked it.

2) I'm not sure if Dr. Strange will be involved directly in the Onslaught story, but he will be making his presence known in relation to it down the road.

3) Sorry that VISION missed the Doctor's appearance. By the way, what did you think of Dennis Calero's rendition of the Doc in last issue's Time Slip?

4) OVER THE EDGE has become MARVEL FANFARE.

5) You just told everyone about it. And for those who are going through the back issues and are interested in Doctor Strange after reading Brent's letter, then check out Vol. 2 #55. It is one of the most incredible comics that I've ever read. It was written by Roger Stern and illustrated by Michael Golden and Terry Austin. You won't be disappointed.

And in a final footnote to your letter, Brent, you might think that Doc is the most powerful but you'll be amazed at the power that a certain Marvel character will display this August.

Dear Marvel VISION,

I'd like to congratulate you on the success of this way cool magazine. My favorite part is the Time Slip feature. I think it's just a hoot to see that this might have been Marvel's future...I mean past...whatever. Anyway, after seeing Keith Giffen's Captain America in issue #7, I just had to write and make some suggestions for possible character/artist combinations that I'd personally like to see. How about a Simon Bisley Magneto or a Sam Kieth Doctor Octopus or even a Frank Miller Ghost Rider? These are just some ideas to get the creative juices flowing. And while we're on the subject, why not have a Time Slip creation contest? You guys (and gals) could come up with the character and we could submit our

artistic version of said character. The winner could get their creation redrawn by "one of today's hot artists." Well, think about it. Okay? Groovy. On a closing note, keep up the good work and thank you for your time.
Insanely,

Chad Wm. Porter
290 Dixon Rd. Apt 204
Weston, Ontario, Canada
M9R 1R9

P.S. I'm sure I'm not the only person who noticed this flaw but Tim, what the heck is an "X-Facter"?

Well, smart guy, an "X-Facter" is the name of the bump on my head from another hit by that dictionary-wielding Editor in Chief of mine.

Seriously, thanks for your comments and suggestions on Time Slip. Currently, we're thinking of collecting all of them into one book later on this year. Is that something you'd like out there? Some future Time Slips are a wicked Red Skull by painter Vince Evans and a completely outrageous Galactus by former DAREDEVIL artist Scott McDaniel.

Dear Marvel VISION,

There was only one thing about this mag (issue #7) that I didn't like: Keith Giffen's rendition of Captain America. Do you really think the Sentinel of Liberty would wear a belt buckle that says, "Don't Tread on Me" In my opinion he looks too much like (you guys don't seem to mind mentioning DC characters in this book, but feel free to edit this if you want) Judge Dredd.

Enough of that, now on to the questions:

1) What do you mean, "To get the results of the MARVEL VERSUS DC crossover, just turn the book around and check out the back cover"? I looked at the back cover and saw nothing about the MARVEL VERSUS DC results.

2) How do you pronounce Fabian Nicieza's name?

3) What's the Marvel POWER game?

4) Is there a Marvel direct ordering system?

5) Give me one good reason why Marvel VISION shouldn't be available for subscription.

6) What are the Marvel Vision trading cards?

7) Are you going to do an article on the ToyBiz Spider-Man: Aftershocks assortment?

8) Will the Aftershocks assortment include the Scarlet Spider and Kaine?

9) Are we going to see any new Spider-Man or Green Goblin figures on the shelves this year?

I hope my letter wasn't too long, but we Marveloids have a lot of questions.

Excelsior!

Andy Sloan
1721 36th St.
Rio Rancho NM 87124

Questions that I'm here to answer, Andy.

1) If you've picked up some of the 2099 books then you've probably seen a full page ad that could be titled "Marvel Won." That ad was to have been the back cover of Marvel VISION #6. The ad, however, actually violated contract stipulations that neither company would attempt to capitalize on the results. So, when I found that out I had the back cover changed 'cause my poor little head could take no more of the Bob Harras flying dictionary. Unfortunately, the ad did print in some comics and Marvel has extended its apologies to our Distinguished Competition.

2) Nee-see-eh-sa. See VISION #2 for more of Fabian's FAQs.

3) If you mean the OVERPOWER game, then it's a game just like Magic: The Gathering.

4) I guess the closest thing to a Marvel direct system would be to subscribe.

5) I can't. So Marvel VISION is now being offered for subscription. Check those subscription coupons for more details.

6) They are trading cards based on Marvel's animated television efforts, hence the "vision" in the title.

7) I don't know.

8) No, there will be a clone assortment.

9) I don't know.

I would like to comment on Andy's note that this mag doesn't seem to have a problem mentioning other characters. That was a very conscious decision on my part. Yes, this is a Marvel magazine that promotes Marvel products but that doesn't mean that in the context of an article or an answer in this letters page that the existence of other characters is a myth or a falsehood. All of those characters are there for our enjoyment. I'm not ashamed or embarrassed to admit that the first comic I read (and still have) was an issue of BATMAN.

Dear Marvel VISION,

I like Marvel a lot. Marvel has been the first company for me. I buy DOOM 2099, FANTASTIC FOUR 2099, SPIDER-MAN 2099, X-MEN 2099 and X-NATION 2099. Since these are my favorite titles, I'm going to throw you some questions.

Since there is going to be a new 2099 title, can you guys bring back the 2099 versions of the Hulk, Ravage, Punisher and Ghost Rider?

2) Are you going to start a new comic called AVENGERS 2099?

3) When is DAREDEVIL 2099 coming out?

4) Since you guys are canceling NEW WARRIORS, will there be a NEW WARRIORS 2099?

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter.

Dallas Johnson
3137 W. 44th St.
Cleveland OH 44109

Ah, another 2099 fan shows his face. I liked the 2099 'verse when it started but felt it began to drift in some strange directions. What is planned is being kept under wraps but hopefully the article in issue #7 helped out some. 2099: WORLD OF TOMORROW sounds like it's going to be really exciting.

1) I'm sure the "Professor" and Mark Powers have something planned for those characters.

2) No.

3) Unfortunately, it's not.

4) No. Any new incarnations of Marvel characters into 2099 versions will take place in the new book.

Dear Tim Tuohy,

I entered the "Tim Tuohy Can't Spell Worth Beans" Contest that was in Marvel VISION # 5, never thinking that I would win. About two months later I received a trade paperback in the mail. I won, I actually won. This was the first contest that I actually won. Receiving the prize was satisfaction enough for me. When I

picked up issue #7, I saw that you listed the names of all the winners. The joy that I felt as I looked for my name in print was incredible. But then the horror! Right there, in front of me in print. I couldn't believe it. It couldn't be. Tim Tuohy couldn't have let this happen, but there it was. My name, misspelled. The story of my life. My last name always gets misspelled or mispronounced but never in a publication that has worldwide appeal. But I don't blame you, Tim, my terrible penmanship most likely led to this heinous error. I humbly ask this one request. Can you please print my name spelled correctly? I would appreciate it very much. Thank You.

Jose **Quijije**
(Address withheld by request)

My most sincere apologies, Jose. I too know the feeling of having a name misspelled or mispronounced; after all, "Tuohy" isn't your garden variety name either.

Dear Tim,

I'm afraid I'm going to have to take exception to the results of your recent spelling contest. First off, thanks to all involved for putting out a magazine which far surpasses the old MARVEL AGE in terms of information and quality. The Daily Bugle page is always a delicious tease and the Time Slip feature is a boon to us drooling fan-persons who want to see a new "take" on an old favorite without messing up the continuity in our favorite titles.

Now, let's get down to brass (or adamantium) tacks. Perhaps I am being a little too mental about your light-hearted contest, call it ego, or maybe years of frustration trying to win a No-Prize but...the rules were to find the word which you misspelled, which I feel I accomplished. I spent all night proofing, reproofing and researching the dictionary to find out that you misspelled "pseudo" as "psuedo." However in your contest you state the misspelled word as "Advance" instead of "Adventures." Advance is not a misspelled word, merely a misused word. While your answer would qualify as a typo, it would not qualify for "Can't Spell Worth Beans." Perhaps Onslaught had something to do with this mix-up (my final try for a coveted No-Prize)!

My peeve aside, this whole Onslaught thing has me feeling like I did when I started reading comics in 1975, nervously waiting for each title each month. Imagine that, still a Marvel Zombie at age 30.

Until Marvel orders me to stop drooling etc.

Mike Gross
46217 Trillum Square #202
Sterling VA 20165

P.S. I just reproofed again and yes, "Futher" should be "Further", but hey, "Pseudo" was still misspelled. Oh well, my No-Prize attempt, foiled yet again. Darn that Onslaught. Please disregard everything but the praise you all so rightly deserve.

Yes, Mike, "Pseudo" was misspelled but Bob didn't hit me on the head for that one. However, your ingenious invocation of the villainous Onslaught qualifies you for entry into that upper echelon category of those who have achieved No-Prizedom. Congratulations! (I hope all that was spelled right!)

Dear Mr. Tuohy,

Saw your "Can't Spell Worth Beans" contest in Marvel VISION and it seems that you still can't spell worth beans! Watch out for Bob Harras's dictionary because on page 42 (under prizes #2 and 3 of the Scott Lobdell contest) of issue #7, I found some more typos: "slection" and "singed." Ever heard of Spell Check?

Seriously, if typos are all that I have to gripe about, then you Marvel-type people are doing a fantastic (four) kind of job! I like VISION because it keeps me well informed on Daredevil and all my other favorite Marvel characters.

Steve Romans
2441 KY Route 680
McDowell KY 41647

Where were you as the dictionary singed, I mean, sang through the air? Yeah, I blew that one but Spell Check won't work on a word that's spelled right. And anyway wouldn't you like a burnt copy of GEN X, huh, huh? Say yes.

Dear Marvel VISION,

I understand that Marvel has recently signed an agreement with Paramount Pictures to publish monthly comics featuring *Star Trek*. If this is true, could you do an article on it in a future issue of your magazine? Also, can you confirm the rumor that an X-MEN/STAR TREK crossover is also in the works? Any information you could provide on this subject would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Bob Anthony
(Address withheld by request)

Consider this issue's cover story as confirmation, Bob. Yes, X-MEN/STAR TREK is a go and I admit that I was very skeptical. If you read my editorial this issue then you know how much I love TREK. I could not see any way that these two entities could meet. A tip of the hat however, goes to Scott Lobdell. Editor Bobbie Chase was kind enough to let me read the plot and let me tell you it's fun. And don't worry about *Star Trek* coverage—I want to know what's ahead just as much as you do!

A special VISION mention of gratitude to all those who wrote in this month: Michael Dean (who included a cool drawing of Gambit and the Externals), David Deyette, Christopher Currie, Bob Kowalski, J. Peck, John Trevino, Jay Margeson, Joe Johnson, Douglas L. Heidzig, Keith H. Bebhardt, Ethan Kass D.O., John McKinley who wrote a long, heartfelt letter (I hope you're reading your name right now), Mark D. Trollinger, Franco Mills, Steve Weston, and The Poor Possum Tree House.

Thanks for writing in and don't stop sending the artwork. Next issue VISION will be sporting a fan art gallery!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

For all you cyber-junkies who find jockeying a keyboard easier than picking up a pen, take note. If you want to E-Mail VISION you can. Address your questions and comments directly to me at: TIMM2E@aol.com.

Please remember the rules of E-Mail: be courteous and be brief. That's not all!

Check out the awesome Onslaught site on the World Wide Web at: http://www.onslaught.com.

And keep checking this space for more digital VISION news!

STAR TREK® X-MEN

"BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY!" (*SUMMERS*, THAT IS...)

1963 ***The X-Men make comic book history with their very first appearance in X-MEN #1.***

1966 ***The first episode of STAR TREK airs on national television..***

1996 ***Paramount Pictures and Marvel Comics combine forces, resulting in the groundbreaking crossover comic book, X-MEN/STAR TREK !***

That's right, history is being made this summer with the mind-blowing, 64-page special, one-of-a-kind X-MEN/STAR TREK! Captain Kirk, Mister Spock, Bones, Uhura, Chekov, Sulu and Scotty will come face-to-face with Wolverine, Jean Grey, Beast, Cyclops, Storm and Gambit!

If that idea alone isn't enough to get your blood racing (and we know it is), let us tantalize you further! The book, which is due to hit the stands the last blistering week of August, will be written by Scott Lobdell (UNCANNY X-MEN, GENERATION X) and drawn by the inhumanly talented Marc Silvestri and the folks over at Top Cow Studios. The book is being released in time to celebrate Marvel's 35th anniversary, as well as the 30th anniversary of Trek's original series. "It's Marvel's most popular characters meeting television's most popular sci-fi characters," gushes Marvel Editor-in-Chief, Bob Harras. "I'm very, *very* excited!"

He's not the only one! The buzz on this book quickly spread throughout the industry, and X-TREK Editor Bobbie Chase found herself fielding questions from freelancers, reporters and other interested parties on an almost hourly basis. One of the most commonly asked questions was, how did this crossover come about? Chase explains, "First of all, when we (Marvel) took over the STAR TREK comics, there was the idea that we wanted to give the books a fresh look, a whole new feeling. We also wanted to do something special with TREK, something that had never been done before." Paramount felt the same way, and the X-MEN/STAR TREK crossover quickly became a viable project.

"There are a lot of similarities between the two teams, both on an individual basis and in the way they operate together,"says Chase. For example, both Jean Grey and Spock are endowed with similar gifts. And both are members of teams that work so closely with each other that they operate like well-oiled machines.

"Paramount and Marvel tend to treat their characters the same way, in that there's an emphasis on interpersonal relations, as well as internal conflict, says Chase. "I think both STAR TREK and X-MEN are character-driven rather than plot-driven."

That's cool, but the buck doesn't stop there! " Paramount views their characters as real, and so do we," admits Chase. "We live and breathe these characters!"

That's commitment! Initially, however, many on both sides were skeptical about the possibility of the crossover. One of the biggest concerns was how the art would look. "Star Trek characters are drawn humanoid like you and me," says Harras, "whereas the X-Men are characters of, well...heroic proportions!" Not a problem for Marc Silvestri whose unmatched style brings total credibility to the concept!

There was also some question as to whether the crossover would feature Next Generation or Original Trek. "Marc (Silvestri) really wanted to draw the original series," says Chase, "and we really wanted Marc to do the book!" Silvestri, one of the most popular artists ever to draw the X-Men, has since worked for Image and now has his own comic book company, Top Cow Studios. "Marc's a great guy," says Bobbie, "and we've had a long association with him!"

The script itself promises to be "a lot of fun," according to Chase. "Scott's done a really great story!" Lobdell (UNCANNY X-MEN, GENERATION X) has woven a plot that incorporates the best of both worlds, so to speak. Each character has been carefully addressed, with no member of either team being ignored. Plus, Scott's come up with a plot line that would do the old STAR TREK series proud.

The comic, which will be introduced under the "Marvel Presents Paramount Comics" trade dress, also includes a 16-page preview of Marvel's other brand-new Star Trek titles, including VOYAGER, DEEP SPACE NINE, and STARFLEET ACADEMY, with art by guys like Mark Buckingham, Jesus Redondo, and Tom Grindberg!

But how about more of the plot? We can't give away too much here, of course, but we *can* tell you that the X-Men will actually be on board the U.S.S. Enterprise! "It's like a dream come true," beams (pun intended) Harras.

Yep, Xavier's brood will be claw-to-phaser with the Enterprise's finest! Does this mean we'll be seeing Storm in one of Yeoman Rand's outfits? Will dilitihium and adamantium coexist peacefully? Will Bones mutate? The possibilities are endless, but the print run won't be, so don't miss X-MEN/STAR TREK—it'll be flying off the stands at warp speed!

—POLLY WATSON

THE DAILY BUGLE

TUESDAY, JUNE 20th, 1996 / Today, flurries, mid 30's; Tomorrow, same; Details, Page 26 50¢

AVENGERS FIGHT MAGNETO IN VIRGINIA

UPI

Virginia— Members of the Avengers waged a fierce battle against Rogue, a member of the mutant outlaw X-Men, and Magneto, the world-known evil mutant who has persecuted humanity time and again.

The battle broke out in Norfolk, Virginia, where the self-proclaimed "Master of Evil Mutants" was reportedly confronted by the Avengers outside a Palmer's Gas Station.

"I had no idea I was pumping gas for a known criminal," said Station Attendant Clancy Polletti. "I mean, here's this hippy dude with this chick who looks like Reba McEntire, looking to gas up their V.W. Bug. Next thing I know, Captain America's tossing his shield across my parking lot! I should've known he was a mutant though – he looked like he was about eighteen, but he had white hair!"

Polletti, along with several other witnesses, reported that the man believed to be Magneto was indeed much younger than the Magneto who held the world hostage from his Avalon satellite several months ago. Justice Department officials dismissed the apparent age discrepancy as irrelevant.

"We've seen Magneto as a young man before," said special agent Peter Gyrich, "and that didn't make him any less a menace to society."

CONTINUED IN AVENGERS #401

ONSLAUGHT CITADEL REMAINS UNCHANGED

By Ben Urich

Central Park remainined more than its usual fearful place as the mysterious high-tech citadel that appeared there a week ago remained in place. The structure belongs to an enigmatic super-villain named Onslaught who yesterday launched an unprovoked attack on the Fantastic Four.

"I can't say that we've seen any change since the building first appeared," said Police Detective Telly Corlacey. "Our best scientists can't even begin to figure out what it's made of, let alone what it's doing here."

CONTINUED IN ONSLAUGHT: X-MEN #1

ONSLAUGHT MENACE STRIKES AGAIN, AGAINST FANTASTIC FOUR

AP

New York City— The mysterious menace known only as Onslaught has launched an unprovoked sneak-attack on Four Freedoms Plaza and its most famous denizens, the Fantastic Four. The battle was as fierce as it was short.

"They just never had a chance," said Postal Worker Willie Lumpkin. "This creature was even bigger than the Hulk! He just swatted them away like a couple of flies." Lumpkin, who has delivered mail to the site since it was the Baxter Building, was making his routine stop at the Plaza when he experienced violent shaking. "At first, I just figured that Mr. Grimm was yawning or something. But then, a whole lot of plaster started falling off the ceiling! That's when I knew something wasn't quite kosher."

CONTINUED IN FANTASTIC FOUR #415

Damage to the Fantastic Four's facility was severe. An entire floor of the building was detonated from within, and it was unknown as this paper went to press whether there were any survivors. The team was reported to have suffered a devastating loss. According to several eyewitnesses, Onslaught was seen departing "with a small child" believed at this time to be Franklin Richards, the son of Reed and Sue Richards.

Also present at the battle were an unidentified African-American man with the letter "M" tattooed over his eye who has been seen in the company of the outlaw mutant band known as the X-Men, and Hawkeye and Crystal of the Avengers. When pressed for details of the battle, Avengers spokesperson Edwin Jarvis has no comment.

A TIME FOR FRIENDS

by J. Jonah Jameson

New York City. The city of stories. The city where dreams are made and lives are built. But the city can be a dangerous place, where muggers roam virtually freely, and menaces like Spider-Man swing with impunity, forever protected from their illegal actions by a public that has been duped into believing them to be heroes.

But this isn't about burglars and a wall-crawling miscreant. No, this is about the regular folks, like you and me. This is about a close member of the family that is the Daily Bugle who has fallen gravely ill. This is about a decent man named Peter Parker.

I still remember the day this skinny kid with giant spectacles and a white shirt with a blue tie first came to me. Oh, I'd seen his type before; they take a couple of nice snapshots in the park and try to sell themselves off as professional photographers. But this kid was special. I could see it in his eyes, and in his work. This was the type of person who wanted to learn, to be the best, and so he came to the best.

His first few shots were what you might expect from a greenhorn: simple, less-than-perfect composition. Some of the shots were even out of focus! But I took this young man under my wing and vowed to make him into the hottest photographer in the city, and so I did. Early in his career, I wisely directed him to pursue the cretinous Spider-Man and try to get shots of him. The newspaper public adores what it fears, and Spider-Man was (and still is) the scariest of them all. Oh, and how young Peter pursued that web-headed fraud, with a relentless zeal that impressed even me.

As Peter grew and matured, I came to see more and more of myself in him: dogged determination, excellence in journalistic reporting, and a fearlessness that goes with the job of a newsman in New York City.

But now, that young man is sick... very sick. He's been stricken with an undiagnosed illness that may rob this paper, if not the world, of his bright presence.

CONTINUED IN SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #7

"This is a much darker series than the other Marvel (animated) shows," explains supervising producer Tom Tataranowicz. "Spider-Man likes being Spider-Man. The X-Men, for all their angst, have a group to hang with. But Bruce Banner is alone and he hates the monster living inside of him. It's a tragedy bordering on a horror story. That's why we're contrasting the frenzied action sequences with dark moody scenes that are representative of the struggles of the main character. We're picking up the story at a very pivotal part of the comic series, around #315 when John Byrne was on the book. That's when THE INCREDIBLE HULK was at its best in my opinion, when it was a Jekyl and Hyde type story."

But the gloomy, gothic approach isn't the only hook to this series. The rampaging main character has been slightly revamped and given more dimension than past interpretations of the green goliath. "We're depicting the Hulk with more emotional range. He's still got the limited mentality and he's very bestial but he's less prone to unprovoked rages," explains story editor Greg Johnson. "He doesn't trash a town because he hates puny humans but he'll do it to protect someone he cares about." Alter ego enthusiasts can also look forward to an updated version of Hulk's human host. Johnson claims that the series's Bruce Banner is much more assertive and "a lot less wimpy than before. He's still an intellectual but more along the lines of an Indiana Jones who attracts more than just the usual attention when teaching a classroom."

Yet Dr. Banner will rarely grace the insides of any intellectual institution. The primary arc of the series involves Bruce traversing the continent in hopes of ridding himself of the Hulk.

Seeing green

What's dark, green, and premiering on UPN this September? It's the Incredible Hulk animated series.

INCREDIBLE

HULK

Meanwhile, General Thunderbolt Ross sets up the Hulk Busters in order to capture everybody's favorite gamma ray victim. Betty Ross will also be a regular, pulling at green heartstrings as she and Doc Samson attempt to create a nutrient gas that will cure their friend.

The series will open with a two-part adventure, "The Return of the Beast," which reveals the Hulk's origin in flashback. Episodically, Hulk will then run into a score of Marvel characters that he'll either recruit to help in his search for a cure or wipe up the floor with. Scheduled guest appearances include: Iron Man and War Machine, Sasquatch, Ghost Rider, Thor, She-Hulk, and Mr. Fantastic. And there won't be a shortage of malicious personas either. "The Leader is the major villain for the season. His goal is to capture the Hulk and siphon his gamma-mutated power for himself. That would make him not only the most intelligent person on earth but also the strongest. Gargoyle will be working alongside the Leader with hopes of finding a remedy for his own grotesque appearance."

"He's still an intellectual but more along the lines of an Indiana Jones who attracts more than just the usual attention when teaching a classroom."

So with all of these brilliant minds on the job, how long can one measly little cure take? "Eventually in the final arc of the season, Doc Samson will manage to split the Hulk from Bruce Banner [as in the Byrne stories]," forecasts Tataranowicz. "But of course, that's when they realize that without the Hulk, Banner will die." All right, so it's not a happy ending. But you have to admit, those circumstances do create a landslide of potential for a SMAshINg second season. The animated Hulk series premieres on September 8 and will run consistently on Sunday mornings.

—Rob Piotrowski

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BACK ISSUE BROWS

CABLE #1-2

BOOKS WORTH SECOND LOOKS
NOW IN THE BACK ISSUE BINS!

Okay. So Onslaught rampaging through every single Marvel Comic in the known universe isn't enough for you. You want more. Something only VISION could put you in touch with. You want back issues worth checking out. Epics of the past, worth ker-plunking your well-worn nickels down for.

You will not be disappointed.

This month, we visit Jim Hanley's Comics, in New York. They have a number of stores on the East Coast including a warehouse filled with just about everything you could ever want.
Their number is 212-268-7085!

WOLVERINE #68

CABLE #1-2

Fabian Nicieza! John Romita Jr.! Ever since Cable first appeared in a next issue blurb at the bottom of New Mutants #86, fans had been pleading for an opportunity to see him solo. And this was their first chance. It had ninjas, the Six Pack, and even Stryfe himself. And let's face it... John Romita Jr. is just one of the coolest artists there is.

Wolverine #68

Not only does this issue have great Mark Texeira art, but it continues a classic storyline of Larry Hama's that may or may not be over. It's an epic of Wolverine's past and his true origins filled with false memories and implant histories. Wolverine under Hama is one of the most consistent books in the Marvel stable and is always worth checking out–and here more than ever. Tex rocks.

Daredevil #168-191

Frank Miller made Daredevil one of the best books on the market. No one will deny it. In fact, for the time Frank (we call him Frank because that's his name) wrote and drew Daredevil, it sold better than even the Uncanny X-Men, and is the only book since Giant-Size X-Men #1 came out to bump the mutants to the #2 slot. The stories are great. The art is great. And the heart behind the series is right. They are timeless classics that put most of today's comics to shame. And, if they're not part of your collection, well, shame on you. Many believe that everything Frank has done since, pales in comparison to these monthly masterpieces. And, with the return of Elektra in the pages of Wolverine, you may want to pick up her original story.

X-Men Archives Presents Captain Britain #1-7

Some of Alan Moore's greatest work is in here. Some of Alan Davis' earliest work is caught between these covers. For the few who have read it (there were actually only about 7,000 of these little items printed up so it's a sure collector's item), they swear by it. It's inspired many and changed the way some of us look at comics. Issue #2 features the beginning of the Alan Moore scripts. Miss it and you've missed some of the best comics on the market in the last ten years. 'Course, that's just the humble opinion of one of the many laborers in the Mighty House Of Ideas.

HEROES REBORN
SEPTEMBER 1996

The "You Wanted It, You Got It" Over Power Card Checklist PART 1

1st Set Codename: Over Power

Card: Hero
Type: Common

- ☐ Bishop
- ☐ Carnage
- ☐ Cyclops
- ☐ Deadpool
- ☐ Dr. Doom
- ☐ Dr. Octopus
- ☐ Gambit
- ☐ Jubilee
- ☐ Professor X
- ☐ Rhino
- ☐ Rogue
- ☐ Sabretooth
- ☐ Spider-Woman
- ☐ Storm
- ☐ Thing
- ☐ Thor
- ☐ War Machine

Card: Mission
Type: Common

- ☐ Adam Warlock Infinity Gauntlet
- ☐ Cable Fatal Attractions
- ☐ Carnage Maximum Carnage
- ☐ Carnage Maximum Carnage
- ☐ Carrion Maximum Carnage
- ☐ Colossus Fatal Attractions
- ☐ Demogoblin Maximum Carnage
- ☐ Doppelganger Maximum Carnage
- ☐ Dr. Doom Infinity Gauntlet
- ☐ Dr. Strange Infinity Gauntlet
- ☐ Exodus Fatal Attractions
- ☐ Galactus Infinity Gauntlet
- ☐ Magneto Fatal Attractions
- ☐ Professor X Fatal Attractions
- ☐ Shriek Maximum Carnage
- ☐ Silver Surfer Infinity Gauntlet
- ☐ Storm Fatal Attractions
- ☐ Thanos Infinity Gauntlet
- ☐ Thor Infinity Gauntlet
- ☐ Venom Maximum Carnage
- ☐ Wolverine Fatal Attractions

Card: Multi Power
Type: Common

- ☐ Century Fgt.,Enr., or Str. 1
- ☐ Iron Man Fgt.,Enr., or Str. 3
- ☐ Nightcrawler Fgt.,Enr., or Str. 2
- ☐ Super Skrull Fgt.,Enr., or Str. 4

Card: Crib
Type: Common

Card: Power
Type: Common

- ☐ Abomination Strength 8
- ☐ Archangel Strength 1
- ☐ Black Cat Energy 2
- ☐ Black Widow Fighting 2
- ☐ Typhoid Mary Fighting 1
- ☐ Century Energy 5
- ☐ Cyber Fighting 8
- ☐ Cyclops Energy 7
- ☐ Domino Fighting 7
- ☐ Electro Energy 4
- ☐ Loki Strength 4
- ☐ Longshot Fighting 3
- ☐ Nebula Energy 1
- ☐ Nightcrawler Fighting 4
- ☐ Professor X Energy 8
- ☐ Sauron Energy 3
- ☐ Spider-Man Strength 2
- ☐ Storm Energy 6
- ☐ Super Skrull Strength 6
- ☐ Thing Strength 7
- ☐ Venom Fighting 5
- ☐ Venom Strength 5
- ☐ War Machine Strength 3
- ☐ Wolverine Fighting 6

Card: Special
Type: Common

- ☐ Apocalypse Shape Shift
- ☐ Beast Analyze
- ☐ Beast Animal Dexterity
- ☐ Beast Beastial Brawn
- ☐ Bishop Absorb Energy
- ☐ Bishop Draw Enemy Fire
- ☐ Bishop XSE Tactics
- ☐ Cable Bodyslide
- ☐ Carnage Blade Hand
- ☐ Carnage Climb
- ☐ Carnage Insane Rage
- ☐ Colossus Haymaker
- ☐ Colossus Metal Barrier
- ☐ Colossus Smash Object
- ☐ Cyclops Fearless Leader
- ☐ Cyclops Optic Obliteration
- ☐ Cyclops Visual Sweep
- ☐ Cyclops Wide Beam
- ☐ Deadpool Killing Machine
- ☐ Deadpool Regeneration
- ☐ Deadpool Super Spy
- ☐ Dr. Doom Concussion Beams
- ☐ Dr. Doom Energy Dampening Field
- ☐ Dr. Doom Time Machine
- ☐ Dr. Octopus Criminal Mastermind
- ☐ Dr. Octopus Multi-Armed Menace
- ☐ Dr. Octopus Villainous Shield
- ☐ Gambit 52 Card Pickup
- ☐ Gambit Charge Object
- ☐ Gambit Intercept Object
- ☐ Hobgoblin Concussion Grenade
- ☐ Hobgoblin Pumpkin Bomb
- ☐ Hobgoblin Razor Bats
- ☐ Hulk Hulk Smash
- ☐ Hulk Shrug Off
- ☐ Human Torch Fire Storm
- ☐ Jean Grey Mental Deflection
- ☐ Jean Grey Mind Scan
- ☐ Jean Grey Telekinesis
- ☐ Jubilee Blinding Flare
- ☐ Jubilee Distracting Burst
- ☐ Jubilee Fireworks
- ☐ Jubilee Spectrum Tease
- ☐ Mr. Fantastic Ingenuity
- ☐ Mystique Infiltration
- ☐ Omega Red Carbonadium Coils
- ☐ Omega Red Drain Lifeforce
- ☐ Omega Red KGB Training
- ☐ Omega Red Sacrificial Lamb
- ☐ Professor X Cerebro
- ☐ Professor X Psychic Scan
- ☐ Professor X X-Men Founder
- ☐ Punisher Full Auto
- ☐ Punisher Smoke Screen
- ☐ Punisher Sniper
- ☐ Rhino Bowl Over
- ☐ Rhino Pinball Blow
- ☐ Rhino Rhino Charge
- ☐ Rhino Romp n' Stomp
- ☐ Rogue Intercept Attack
- ☐ Rogue Power Transfer
- ☐ Rogue Sky Soar
- ☐ Sabretooth Bloodlust
- ☐ Sabretooth Danger Scent
- ☐ Sabretooth Healing Factor
- ☐ Sabretooth Wildcat Attack
- ☐ Silver Surfer Cosmic Healing
- ☐ Silver Surfer Energy Protection
- ☐ Silver Surfer Force Shield
- ☐ Silver Surfer Rearrange Matter
- ☐ Spider-Man Wall Crawl
- ☐ Spider-Woman Arachnophobia
- ☐ Spider-Woman Spider Attack
- ☐ Spider-Woman Spider Strength
- ☐ Spider-Woman Web Lines
- ☐ Storm Chain Lightning
- ☐ Storm Flight
- ☐ Storm Hurricane Winds
- ☐ Thing Bear Hug
- ☐ Thing Rock Skin
- ☐ Thing Temper Tantrum
- ☐ Thor God of Thunder
- ☐ Thor Mystic Uru Metal
- ☐ Thor Protect Teammate
- ☐ Venom Alien Webbing
- ☐ War Machine Energy Shield
- ☐ War Machine Guided Missile
- ☐ War Machine Hidden Weapon
- ☐ Wolverine Fighting Instinct

To be continued next issue!

Thanks to Steve Domzalski at Fleer/ Sky Box.

Four months ago, Jeff Matsuda assumed the reins of penciler on X-FACTOR. A long-time comics fan, Jeff has found X-FACTOR to be a dream come true. VISION and X-FACTOR assistant editor Matt Idelson decided to cut right to the chase and find out just how Jeff feels about X-FACTOR, himself and the future of his latest comics challenge.

Mutt: We'll start with a dumb one. Why did you choose to be a penciler, instead of a writer or inker? Yeah, it's obvious, I know.

Jeff: It seems like that's where you do the most creating, I think. And I think getting across the characters' personalities is what I like the most.

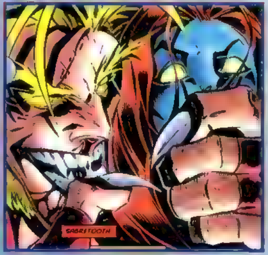
Mutt: Who were some of your influences (another obvious question)?

Jeff: Oh god. Well, first cut I started liking guys like Will Eisner and Alex Toth. But if I had to think of guys whose work is still coming out... guys like Michael Golden. I like Carlos [Pacheco's] work a lot.

Mutt: Before X-FACTOR, you said you really wanted to work on an X-project more than anything else. Why all the interest in "X"?

Jeff: I guess like with most other people, it's [UNCANNY X-MEN] the book that I sort of grew up on. It's the book that got me into comics. They just had the most interesting history to me.

THE MATSUDA FACTOR



Mutt: So you started reading them back in the '80s?

[illegible] Yes. The one with the John Romita Jr. cover, where Cyclops is blasting all the [illegible] [illegible] X-MEN #176.—Tim].

Mutt: Who's your favorite character in X-FACTOR right now, the one you get psyched to draw the most?

Jeff: I like drawing Wildchild a lot.

Mutt: Yeah, I noticed you changed the ears. I like his new ears!

[illegible] What? You mean they weren't pointy before?! Oh, well, I guess I thought he'd [illegible]. After I drew it, I guess I forgot what was status quo, what [illegible].

Mutt: You've had chances to redesign some characters and/or costumes. Are you done and is the book kind of where it's going to be at, or do you have any more changes in mind?

[illegible]. I have a couple ideas of different costumes for her. [illegible] either, his costume this time. I think I messed with his [illegible] really like. I hope people will like the new costume. I'd kind of [illegible] Guy come back.

Mutt: Why?

[illegible] between him and Cyclops, where he's always [illegible] guy. I'd like to see him come into his own, to a [illegible]. I mean, they're doing something with Iceman (in UNCANNY X-MEN), where he [illegible] realized. He's a cool character, but he's [illegible]. They never explored his powers, but they're [illegible] kind of cool. I like Random, too.

Mutt: You also mentioned Strong Guy?

Jeff: Yes. He's this big, bulky person. It seems like most of the characters (in X-

FACTOR) are really kind of [illegible]. [illegible] had someone big, like Colossus. Nothing [illegible] 'Guy, though.

Mutt: Getting back to Havok, his and Polaris's relationship is on the skids for about the millionth time. Would you like to see them break up once and for all, or get back together?

Jeff: Yeah, if they broke up I wouldn't [illegible]

Mutt: So if you were Dr. Joyce Brothers, you'd probably suggest they each find someone new, right?

Jeff: Yeah, find someone new. I [illegible] and Shard thing.

Mutt: Hmmm. I was just getting to that. There's not a lot of romance in the book right now. Who do you see getting together?

Jeff: I'm sort of hoping Shard and Wildchild end up together. [illegible] though I don't see how they could have any kind of [illegible] solid.

Mutt: Are there any guest stars you'd like to see show up in the book?

Jeff: There's still some other X-characters I haven't [illegible] yet. Guys like Gambit, or guys like Cyclops, Colossus, Nightcrawler. I guess all the original X-Men I haven't had a chance to draw yet. But I'm getting a chance to draw [illegible]

Mutt: This fall, there's a MYSTIQUE/SABRETOOTH limited series coming out, and there's a new FREEDOM FORCE limited series tentatively scheduled to follow it. I'd imagine it might involve Mystique, Val Cooper, and even Forge since they were heavily connected to the original Freedom Force. Does it ever bother you at all to see other people doing "your" characters?

Jeff: I don't think I'm too possessive of the characters. The other day, I was looking at this page that Art Thibert is inking, which had Shard meeting Bishop, and I was like, "holy cow!"

Mutt: How do you feel about all the interweaving between the X-books, especially now? You're doing this story in X-FACTOR #125 which picks up from X-MEN UNLIMITED, which in turn came out of a story from X-MEN.

Jeff: I like the "our book, our direction" thing, but I think that you can have your own book and your own direction and still have it be part of a bigger family. That's what I like. When I heard about the plot where the two Beasts meet, I liked that. I think the readers like that. Most fans don't buy one X-book. I think they like the whole world which we've woven. That's what I like about it, because I also get to draw other characters and see other relationships.

Mutt: How long do you plan to stay on X-FACTOR?

Jeff: Oh... as long as I can be on it, I guess. Just have a nice long run, where something significant happens in the run which marks it as "here it's happening."

— "Mutt" Idelson

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elektra

You better keep both eyes open and your back to the wall as autumn approaches! Marvel's unleashing the hottest assassin who ever drew bad-guy blood--ELEKTRA #1 is hitting the stands in September! Readers who remember her from DAREDEVIL and recent issues of WOLVERINE know that this woman has a past that's shadowier than a Louisiana swamp, a figure like the Rio Grande (liquid curves and no end in sight), and skills unmatched in the martial arts! It's no wonder she's getting her own book!

British wunderkind Peter Milligan (THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF CYCLOPS & PHOENIX, SHADE THE CHANGING MAN) will be handling the scripting duties, and renowned "babe" artist Mike Deodato (THOR, AVENGERS, WONDER WOMAN) will be cranking out the art! According to editor Bobbie Chase, some of the sketches he turned in were so hot the FedEx boxes were smoldering!

But enough about that boring, creative team chit-chat! You're wondering what the scoop is on this mystery minx--and we're in the mood to dish! Back when daddies still made money owning companies instead of working for them, Elektra had one of the richest daddies of them all! Unfortunately, he was offed in a rather ugly manner, accidentally killed by police after he had been taken hostage by terrorists. Young Elektra set out to avenge her father's death. Trained by a group of peace-loving philosophers known as the Chaste (one of the members, Stick, trained Matt Murdock), her motives however were not what the Chaste had in mind for a pupil and Elektra was expelled from their ranks for submitting to her dark side. Later find-

ing a teacher in the Hand, she became the sai-wielding assassin that we know today. Since then she's broken Daredevil's heart, slain baddies by the dozen, and been murdered herself by the psycho-killer Bullseye! Resurrected by Stone, a member of the Chaste, she went on to save Wolverine from an untimely (not to mention grisly) death! Not bad for a chick who's seen the inside of a coffin up close!

Now Elektra's literally got a whole new life! Hoping to one day be accepted by the Chaste, she's trying to channel her aggressions in a more positive direction than, say, killing! She's got a red-hot career as a dancer (you'll have to pick up the first few issues to find out what kind!), and she's the secret sponsor of a bunch of martial arts clubs for poor inner-city kids! To further quench her dark desires, she works out, often till the early hours of the morning, with not one but two beefy male senseis!

Yep, Elektra's got so much energy it could probably be rated in horsepower! But can she keep that energy in check when she's offered an unexpected assassin job...from an even more unexpected source? And can she let that energy loose at just the right moment, when she becomes a living target for a madman? Can she stick to the path she's chosen, or will she crack like teeth aginst a curb? You don't have to follow her through the steamy streets of NYC to find out--just grab ELEKTRA #1 and witness the struggle yourself!

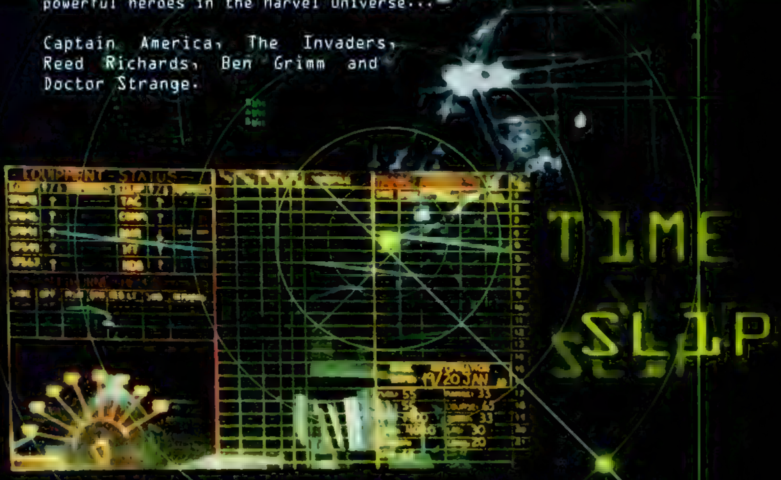
--Polly Watson

Welcome to the Marvel Universe that would have been if today's hottest creators had been with Stan Lee on the eve of the birth of Marvel Comics. Think of this as the world that might have been. Think of it as the world that might still be becoming.

John K. Snyder III, painter and artist of DR. MIDNIGHT, FASHION IN ACTION, GRENDEL, SUICIDE SQUAD, and the ONSLAUGHT Marvel Press Poster has been commissioned to design a character who will star in two different worlds... Nick Fury.

Before Nick Fury, Agent Of S.H.I.E.L.D. there was just SGT. FURY AND THE HOWLING COMMANDOS. This special missions team from W.W.II fought against the forces of the AXIS powers. Along the way, Fury found himself allied with some of the most powerful heroes in the Marvel Universe...

Captain America, The Invaders, Reed Richards, Ben Grimm and Doctor Strange.



It is his humanity, though, not his training or talent, that makes Fury a hero. He is a leader of men. A man with a singular vision. For his country. And for nothing else.

The story is told of the day Fury catches a piece of shrapnel in his eye. And rather than leave his corps without him for the operation to save his eye, he chooses to lose it and get back to the front lines to help his men.

But in the world where John K. Snyder III designs Nick Fury, the piece of shrapnel that took his eye also takes part of his face. Instead of becoming the supersleuth agent of the multi-billion dollar operation called S.H.I.E.L.D., this scar made it uncomfortable for others to be led by Fury in the light of day...and so, he became a major player in the most dangerous game. He became a covert commando.

A loner with a license to kill.

The Bay Of Pigs. The 'Nam. Operation: Desert Storm. And many others no civilian has ever heard of. He has visited them all with a reck- [illegible] sense of justice that would be legendary if anyone knew of his [illegible]. His beard covers some of the damage to his face... but [illegible] of sacrifice for his country continue to show. Then again, what can we expect of Colonel Nicholas Fury. For he is a hero.

And there are no heroes without scars.

Jean Grey
MANSION SECURITY WAS DEACTIVATED... FROM WITHIN ···BRZZZT··· BETRAYED BY ONE OF OUR OWN.
PROFESSOR XAVIER··· BRZZZT··· FIRST TO DIE..
YOU?!?
YOU MAY HAVE ··· BRZZZT··· KILLED THE X-MEN··· BRZZZT··· BUT THE DREAM WILL NEVER DIE..
THE TRAITOR EXPOSED!
No One Is Safe.
Not The X-Men
Spider-Man
Hulk
Avengers
Fantastic Four
Mutants
Heroes
No One.
ONSLAUGHT!
MARVEL COMICS

Marvel Ultra: Onslaught

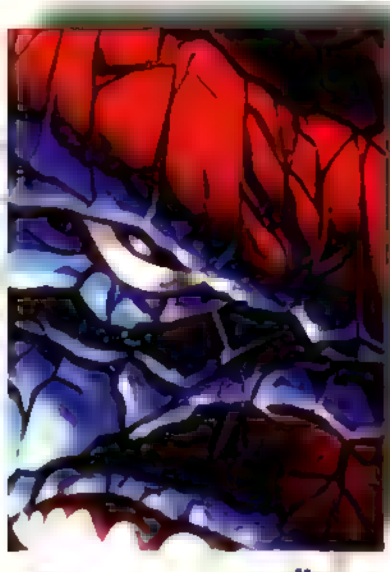
or

How to Make Trading Cards in 5 Easy Steps

step #1: Make a checklist of the characters in the set.

"No, Matt."

"C'mon, Ben... er... I mean Mr. Raab, I need to know everything about Onslaught so I can write a checklist. As the assistant to the editor-in-chief you're the only one who can help me."



"Sorry, that stuff is top secret. What if it gets out?"

"Oh, I promise not to tell, Please?"

"Nope."

"Pretty please."

"Uh uh."

"I'll be your best friend."

"You call that an incentive?"

"I'll leave your office and never come back."

"Now that's incentive. All right, here's the outline for the event. As you can see, Onslaught encompasses all the X-Men and most every Marvel core character. The Avengers, the FF, Spidey, Dr. Strange, they're all there."

"Thanks, Ben, you're a prince. I'll be back next week about the upcoming Wolverine set."

"What? You said you'd never come back!"

"I lied."

"Get out!"

step #2: Determine set configuration and subsets.

"Don't come crying to me when nobody knows anything about Marvel Ultra: Onslaught because you were too lazy to write up a press release, Matt."

"I am not lazy, Kate."

"As Fleer P.R. Director, I have to give set information to the press. I've been after you for two weeks for details. I E-Mailed you several times."

"Oh, I never check E-Mail."

"You call that an excuse?!"

"Okay, it's no big deal. I can write up something in five minutes."

"Well if it's so easy then do it now."

"I'm busy."

"I'll bet you can't."

"Can so."

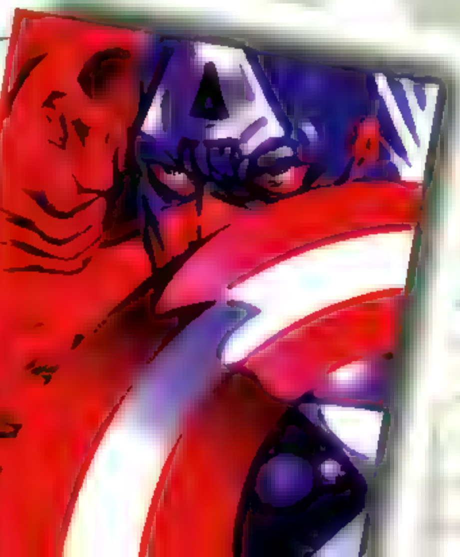
"Can not."

"Can so!"

"Prove it."

"All right, I will!"

Marvel Ultra: Onslaught is a 100-card set, UV coated and foil-stamped. It features special Chapter cards chronicling the Onslaught event and Creator cards personally drawn by Jim Lee and Rob Liefeld. In addition, it will include collectible "chase" cards for Marvel's OverPower card game: 4 Hero cards (1:9 packs) and 7 Mission cards (1:9 packs). These cards will be bonus game cards based on the Onslaught event available in this set and no place else. Even rarer are 3 multi-image Mirage™ "flicker" cards (1:36 packs), but the ultimate in chase cards are the 2 Autograph cards signed by Jim Lee and Rob Liefeld (1:180 packs). Marvel Ultra: Onslaught is available in September.



"There. Happy, Ms. Travaline?"

"No, this stinks."

"I said I'd do it in five minutes, I never said it'd be good."

"Get out!"

step #3: Hire artists to draw the characters.

Hi, it's Matt. Leave a message and I'll get back to you. ***BEEP!***

"Hi, Matt, it's Jim Lee. I just want to say what a thrill it is to be working on the Marvel Ultra: Onslaught set. I just spoke with Rob and he said he left a message with you too. I'm very excited about the talented artists you were able to get for this set. People like Adam & Andy Kubert, Humberto Ramos, Mike Deodato and Sal Larroca. Anyway, hope to talk to you soon."

Hi, it's Matt. Leave a message and I'll get back to you. ***BEEP!***

"Hi, Matt, it's Rob Leifeld. I'm sending you rough sketches of the cards I'm doing for your approval. Jim tells me he left you a message promising to send his also. I hope you like 'em. Bye."

Hi, it's Matt. Leave a message and I'll get back to you. ***BEEP!***

"Hi, Matt, it's Jim Lee. I just finished the pencil drawings of my cards, so you'll get them tomorrow. I know Rob's are finished too. He left a message for you saying so. I can't wait to see how the coloring comes out; please send me a copy if it's not too much trouble. So long."

Hi, it's Matt. Leave a message and I'll get back to you. ***BEEP!***

"Hi, Matt, it's Rob Liefeld. Jim and I got the copies of the finished coloring from your assistant Mike Pasciullo and we just wanted to let you you know we love it! It was nice working with you. Thanks for everything."

Hi, it's Matt,. Leave a message and I'll get back to you. ***BEEP!***

"Hey Matt it's your boss Dan Buckley. I just wanted to tell you the Onslaught set looks great! Nice work!"

step #4: Write back copy.

"Hey, Dan, what's up with Matt?"
"What do you mean, Mike?"
"I haven't seen him in days and his office door's been closed the whole time."
"Oh, he's probably writing card copy for Marvel Ultra: Onslaught and doesn't want to be disturbed."
"What's the editorial slant of the copy?"
"The Xavier Protocols. The idea is Professor X left behind specific instructions to each character in case he ever goes insane."
"Cool, but uh... shouldn't a professional writer be doing this?"
"Matt is a pro."
"Yeah, he's real good but sometimes his stuff can be... you know... odd."
"I have full confidence in his abilities. Besides, he wouldn't do anything too strange."

step #5: Put it all together.

"That's it? Put it all together?"
"Well... yeah.",
"I, as the editor of MARVEL VISION, asked you, as the writer for an article on Marvel Ultra: Onslaught, and you turn in this .. this esoteric diatribe which you conclude by reducing the months long, complicated process of pre-production graphic design, color separations, manufacturing, distribution and retail sales to "put it all together" and you expect me to print it?"
"Well... yeah."
"Why?"
"Because you love me."
"Get out!"

— Matt Morra

Marvel's 35th Anniversary

Marvel Comics has been around for over 50 years, but the Marvel Universe as we know it began in 1961, with the release of FANTASTIC FOUR #1. In this issue, we conclude our two-part series on how Marvel revolutionized the industry in the swinging '60s—and kept the momentum going well into the '90s!

Part Two

John Romita, who took over the art on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN from Steve Ditko in 1966, says that in his first year or two on the book he received hate mail from some fans, asking when Steve was coming back. Even Stan Lee wasn't always pleased. Romita had transformed Peter Parker from a nerd into a handsome leading man. John remembers, "Stan used to say: 'I want him to be a schnook. I want him to be not-too-handsome, and not brawny-looking!'

"I could never quite get it," John admits. "To me, whenever I drew a hero, I made him as handsome as I could! Stan finally threw up his hands in disgust and said: 'The heck with it! Everything else you draw is so good, I'll just write Peter Parker as if he is improving!'

"It ended up looking like we had planned it. Peter was going from an awkward nerd in his mid-teens to a little bit more attractive guy who was still having trouble because he had been a nerd! It looked like a very clever little gimmick...it was just luck!" Romita also brought glamorous female characters to Spider-Man, noting, "Stan had no objection to that!"

Gil Kane worked at Marvel in the late sixties through the late '70s, by his estimation, drawing a whopping 800 covers! Like Romita and John Buscema, Kane cites Jack Kirby's art as a major factor in Marvel's early success. "Kirby's work was a dynamic combination of the primitive and the modern. He had a great sense of the art deco movement that developed in the '30s. Jack's style blew the top off the industry. After years of being chained to bland styles in the '50s, things started to ease up a little in the '60s."

"While everyone else was doing the classic style, Jack was doing this incredibly vivid style which totally supported the type of action that he brought to comics."

Legendary inker Joe Sinnott, now semi-retired, worked on possibly more Kirby pages than anyone. "I did about 70 issues of FANTASTIC FOUR with Kirby, and I stayed on the book for about 300 issues altogether, inking Buscema, [Rich] Buckler, and [John] Byrne. My son estimates that I have done 25,000 to 30,000 pages altogether! There was one year when I inked 100 covers! I'm going on 47 years with Marvel, and I haven't missed a year yet!"

As for what made the Kirby/Sinnott team such a vital force in Marvel's formative years, Joe responded, "Jack certainly reached his peak in the '60s. I don't think anyone would disagree with that. I added a little slickness to his work. Maybe I made Reed a little more handsome. Or maybe I made the girls a little more pretty, if possible.

"But it was the little things that you ordinarily wouldn't think of or wouldn't see. It was an accumulation of things that added up and made the books look much better—certainly ahead of anybody else's at the other companies. It was modern for its time."

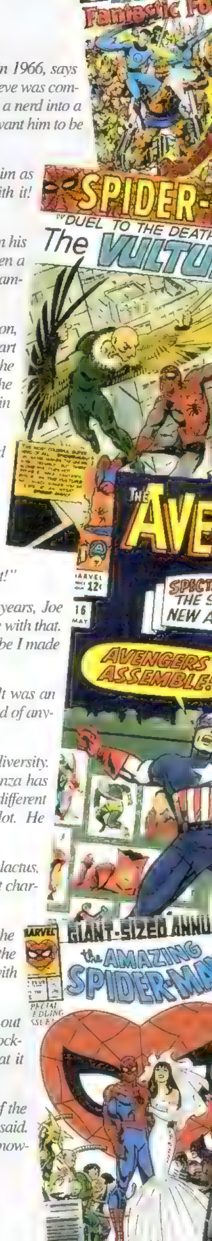
Sinnott believes the secret of Marvel's initial success was the company's artistic diversity. "Marvel set the standard. Everything looked better—the logos, the lettering—John Costanza has always been my favorite. The overall look of the books was great. There was a diversity of different artists, different styles. Gene Colan, John Romita, Sal Buscema...Don Heck contributed a lot. He doesn't get the credit he deserves. We all had individual styles.

"We also had a galaxy of great characters—Dr. Doom, and the Surfer, and Galactus, and the Mole Man—I could go on and on. I think it's just the accumulation of great characters and certainly great storytelling."

Marie Severin joined the Marvel staff way back in the fifties, after leaving the production department of MAD Magazine. Of the people Marie worked with at the beginning of her Marvel stint, a teaming she cites as a career high point was with her brother, John.

One of Marie's fondest memories of the early days was when "Stan used to act out the stories. Sometimes he would jump up on a desk. His glasses would go flying out of his pocket. Pens and pencils would fall all over the place. Flo Steinberg would just say, 'Stan's at it again!'"

Marie feels a major factor in Marvel's initial success was the age and experience of the people involved. "Stan and Jack were not kids when they were doing their best work," she said. "They were 40 or 50 when all this stuff was going on. There's something to be said for know-how!"



Romita notes that Stan helped bring respectability to the comics industry and its creators. "When I first came to Marvel, it was driven home to me that this could be an art form. Jack Kirby used to talk about comics being displayed in museums someday; we used to laugh.

"But the truth of the matter is, before that, all of us, generally, were working in a business that we had not much respect for. Even Stan has said that when he first started out, he did not want to waste his real name in comics. A lot of guys also used phoney names because if you wanted to work for another company you could."

Romita points out that many artists held back their creative energy, but there were others, like himself, who figured comics would make a good temporary career and did their best work. "I would put in the best effort I could. I always wanted everything I did to be something that could be used as a sample."

Romita credits Stan with coming up with nicknames for the creators, which made the writers and artists more familiar to the fans. "There was a time at DC when signing your name was considered an act of egotism. There were a couple of guys who signed their names, but not many did until after Stan started doing it. Stan was the first one to promote artists...and the rest is history."

Buscema says his career highs include "...working with Roy Thomas on Conan and with Stan Lee on the Silver Surfer. I particularly liked the one we did where the Surfer fights Thor in Asgard."

Romita is impressed with Marvel's ability to keep the characters current with the times. He says the main job of the creative people over the years has been to "cherish the characters, and also face the challenge of bringing them through the decades as they changed."

"If you do a character for 30 years, you can get very, very stale. Even the stuff that I disagreed with, like Spider-Man's black costume, I have to admit, was very, very clever. Stan and I used to say, if we'd had to do Spider-Man for 30 years, we'd have had a heck of a time!"

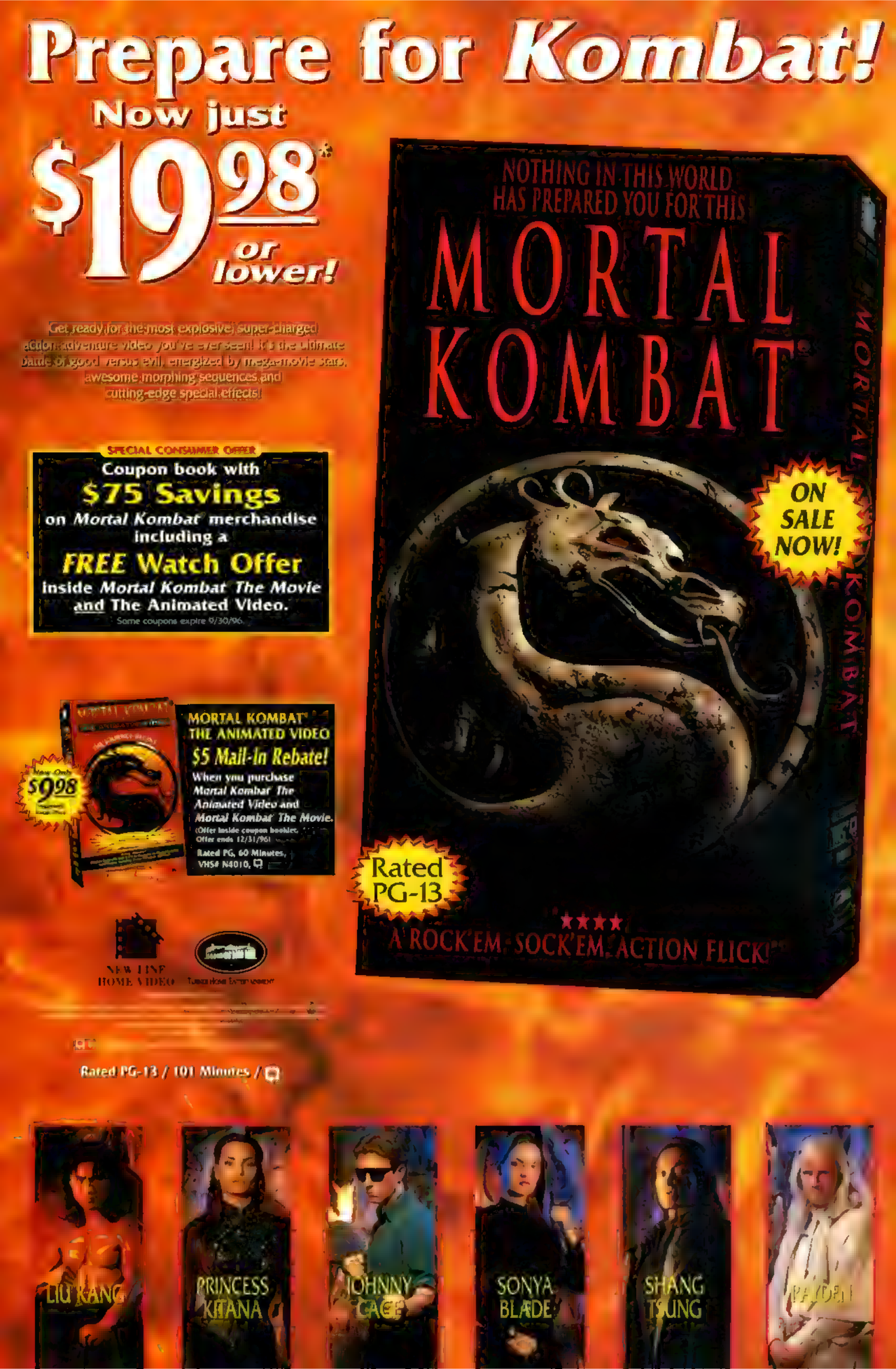
To celebrate the historic occasion of this 35th anniversary, Marvel will be publishing five special issues of some of the most beloved titles in an event called Legends. The five comics featured will be: CAPTAIN AMERICA, AVENGERS, IRON MAN, THOR, and FANTASTIC FOUR.

The Legends issues, two of which were written by Marvel VISION chronicler, Peter Sanderson, will feature highlights from each of the five titles. You'll see best villains, worst villains, team-ups, greatest battles, unforgettable artwork and so forth. As Mark Gruenwald, who is editing two of the Gala issues, put it, "We'll show you what classic comic book stuff has emerged from these titles."

As impressive as the past 35 years of Marvel Comics have been, Stan thinks the future of Marvel will be even better! "Bob Harras and the rest of the guys back in New York have so many wonderful new projects. We've got so many great writers and artists, and the company is backing them to the hilt."

Now that the Marvel Age of Comics is entering its 35th year, it seems as if the House of Ideas is just getting warmed up! Perhaps Stan Lee put it best when he enthused, "I hope when Marvel turns 50, we can do this again!"

Barry Dutter



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PRINCESS KITANA
JOHNNY CAGE
SONYA BLADE
SHANG TSUNG
RAYDEN

MARVEL CHRONICLES 6: 1965

With the comics cover-dated January 1965 "The Marvel Age of Comics" was just a little over three years old. It was an accepted principle in comic books that the status quo of a series was permament: back in those days everyone knew that Superman would never, ever marry Lois Lane. But if the Marvel Comics of 1965 had a theme, it was change. At Marvel the status quo would continually be in flux.

Take for example Marvel's three "split books," each containing two series: TALES OF SUSPENSE, featuring Captain America and Iron Man; TALES TO ASTONISH, with Giant-Man and The Incredible Hulk; and STRANGE TALES starring The Human Torch and Doctor Strange. Stan Lee apparently did not hesitate to replace a series that was underperforming with a new one that held more promise. So, 1965 saw the Giant-Man series end with TALES TO ASTONISH #69; Giant-Man, renamed Goliath, and his partner the Wasp would find a new home as members of the Avengers in the following year.

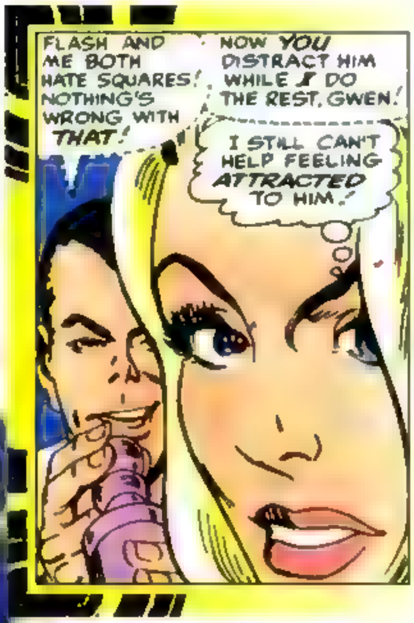
The Human Torch series had by this time become a co-starring vehicle for the Thing, but it too came to a close with STRANGE TALES #134. However, shortly before the end, one of the more unusual footnotes in Marvel history occurred, as the Torch and Thing crossed paths with, of all people, the Beatles, in STRANGE TALES #130: the Thing was even pictured in a Beatle wig!

The Torch's replacement in STRANGE TALES took a familiar character and placed him in very unexpected surroundings. The tremendous success of the "James Bond" novels and movies had spawned a host of books, movies, and television series about glamorous secret agents operating in a world of fantastic high technology and powerful subversive organizations.

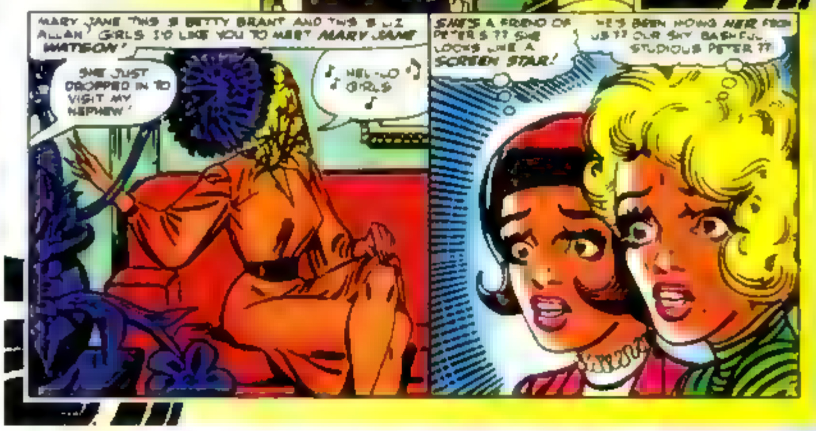
Now, with STRANGE TALES #135, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby created their own super-scientific intelligence organization, S.H.I.E.L.D., whose acronym name was presumably inspired by television's spy series, *"The Man From U.N.C.L.E."* But instead of making someone like Bond their protagonist, they chose the now middle-aged, usually unshaven, cigar-chewing Nick Fury, the hero of their war comic, SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS!

The contrast between the down-to-earth Fury and the fantastic world of S.H.I.E.L.D. was what made NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. unique. This street-smart everyman gave the Bondian fantasy world a vividly human center, and his rough-hewn sergeant's attitude cut down the pretensions of his opponents, the cult of costumed terrorists known as Hydra.

Spider-Man too was in for a big change in 1965: Peter Parker graduated high school and entered Empire State University, where, in issue #31, he first met three people who would play major roles in his life: his first true love, Gwen Stacy; Harry Osborn, who became a close friend but would later take up his father's role as the Green Goblin; and Professor Miles Warren, the man who would one day become the Jackal and create the Spider-Man clone.

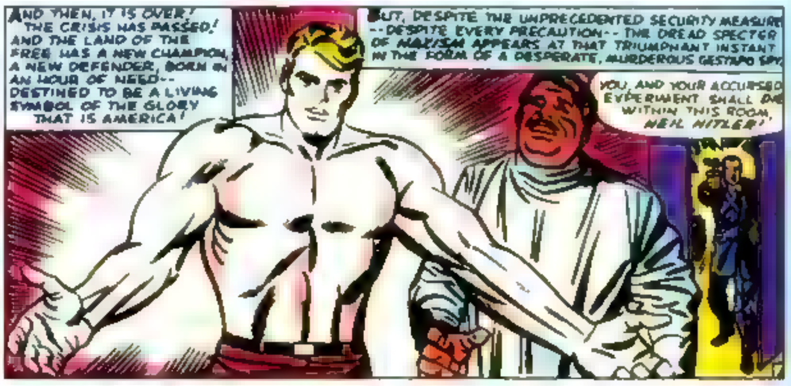


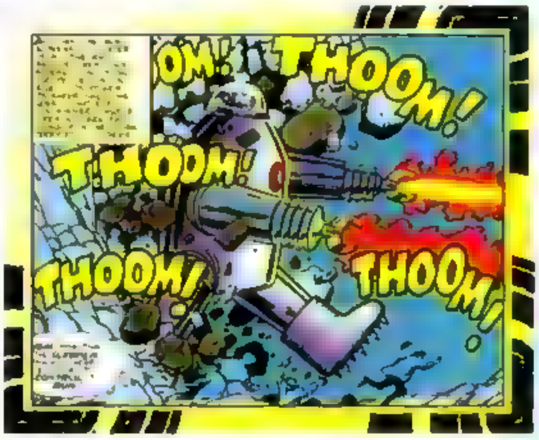
Mary Jane Watson turned up in issue #25 but not only was Peter not there but the readers were not allowed to see her face.



It was a memorable year for the DAREDEVIL series, which was being drawn by the legendary comics artist Wally Wood. In issue #7 he abandoned his original black and yellow uniform for the more familiar red costume, which he wore in his battle royal against the far more powerful Sub-Mariner.

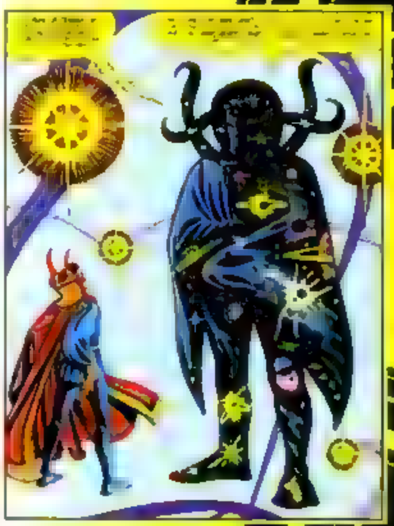
Not every hero went through a major change in his series in 1965. In fact, that year Captain America's own series in TALES OF SUSPENSE was primarily devoted to his past exploits during World War II, in some cases through retellings of some of the [Joe] Simon and [Jack] Kirby Captain America stories of the 1940s, including Cap's origin in TALES OF SUSPENSE #63. In the course of a lengthy World War II storyline involving Cap's greatest nemesis, the Red Skull, Lee and Kirby finally revealed the Skull's origin in TALES OF SUSPENSE #66. The final issue that year, #72, shifted back to the present day as Nazi agents began activating enormous robots - the Sleepers - that would wreak the Skull's vengeance for the Third Reich's defeat.





The Hulk spent the year locked in struggle with his own archenemy, the Leader, who finally met his apparent demise in TALES TO ASTONISH #74 -and, remarkably enough, he stayed "dead," as far as the readers knew, until his inevitable return in 1969!

Beset by the teaming of his greatest nemeses, Baron Mordo and the dread Dormammu, Doctor Strange fled across the world and embarked on a search for the secret he believed would help him defeat these foes: the secret of Eternity. And in STRANGE TALES #138 he finally came face-to-face with Eternity himself, perhaps Steve Ditko's most astonishing visual creation, an entity who embodied the entire cosmos itself.

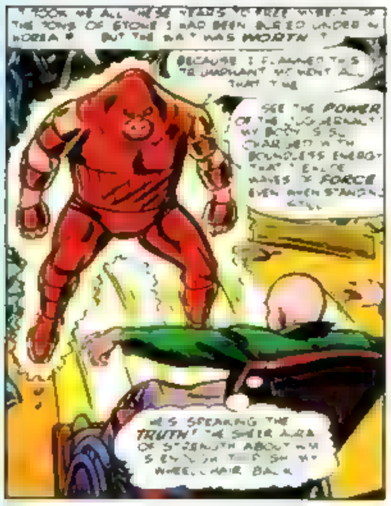


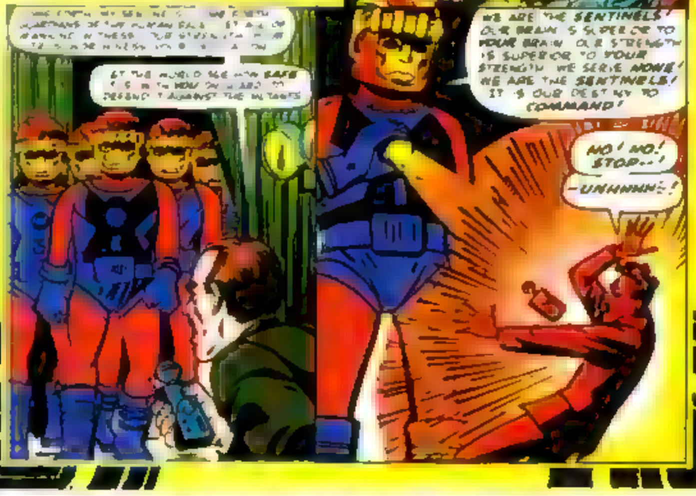
Iron Man learned the origin of his archenemy, the Mandarin, in TALES OF SUSPENSE #62, and first battled a foe who was nearly as dangerous, his Soviet counterpart, the Titanium Man, in issues #69 through #71.

Over in JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY the evil god Loki transformed the convict Crusher Creel into one of Thor's most dangerous antagonists, the Absorbing Man. Soon the feud between Loki and Thor so strained their father Odin's patience that he forced them to undergo "The Trial of the Gods." This story, beginning in issue #116, marks the beginning of the truly classic period of the Lee and Kirby THOR Meanwhile in JOURNEY's backup series, "Tales of Asgard," issue #119 introduced Thor's answer to the Three Musketeers, the Warriors Three: Hogun the Grim, Fandral the Dashing, and Volstagg the Enormous.

What was the big change in THE X-MEN? Well, most people probably expected that the X-Men would fight Magneto's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants forever. But in issue #11 a mysterious Stranger with seemingly limitless power turned Mastermind to stone (temporarily, it turned out) and took two prize specimens—Magneto and the Toad—back into outer space with him. Even the X-Men were startled at how quickly it all ended. As for Brotherhood members Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch, they returned to Eastern Europe—but not for very long, as we shall see.

Lee and Kirby were quick to devise new menaces to take Magneto's place: Professor Xavier's foster brother, the nearly unstoppable Juggernaut debuted in issue #12, and in issue #14 the implacable mutant-hunting robots called the Sentinels made their first appearance. Earlier, Lee and Kirby had touched briefly on humanity's distrust of the mutants in their midst, but with issue #11 the theme of prejudice against mutants was finally realized with full dramatic force. It would remain at the heart of the X-MEN series to the present day.





Perhaps the most startling change of the year took place in THE AVENGERS. In issue #15 Baron Heinrich Zemo had Rick Jones (the Hulk's friend who currently was the Avengers' sidekick) abducted to lure his nemesis Captain America into a trap. Captain America followed Rick to Zemo's jungle lair where he and the Baron had their climactic showdown. Temporarily blinded by the reflection of the sun from Cap's shield, Zemo fired his ray gun wildly, triggering an avalanche. The falling rocks instantly crushed the life from the Baron. Cap, years later, would face Zemo's vengeful son, Helmut, who still menaces him today.

Back in Manhattan, the Avengers soundly defeated Zemo's Masters of Evil. But immediately afterwards, Thor was called away to the "Trial of the Gods," and Giant-Man, the Wasp, and Iron Man all decided to quit the team to devote their full time to their careers apart from the Avengers. This was unheard of back then: would the founding members of the Justice League have quit? Even more amazing, when Cap returned he discovered that the founders had selected three reformed super-villains to take their place: Hawkeye, Quicksilver, and the Scarlet Witch! The result was that the Avengers finally gained its own identity as a series. There was real dramatic tension between the conservative Cap and his rebellious young charges, and Stan Lee could freely explore the personalities of these newcomers in AVENGERS since they had no series of their own. The first landmark "New Avengers" story came in issues #19 and #20, when the team faced Hawkeye's old teacher, the criminal Swordsman.

It was certainly a memorable year for Marvel's flagship Silver Age title, FANTASTIC FOUR. In issue #35 their old foe Diablo brought the android Dragon Man to life, and in the following issue the Human Torch's foes from STRANGE TALES, the Wizard, Sandman, and Paste-Pot Pete (soon to be renamed the Trapster), teamed up with a mysterious woman named Medusa as the Fantastic Four's criminal counterparts, the Frightful Four. In issue #38 this villainous team detonated a nuclear device whose radiation temporarily robbed the Fantastic Four of their powers. This set the stage for one of the FF's greatest stories in which the powerless foursome had to storm their Baxter Building headquarters, which had been taken over by Doctor Doom. Immediately thereafter the Frightful Four succeeded in temporarily brainwashing the Thing, turning him into FF leader Reed Richards' worst enemy.

The Thing finally regained his true personality and the reunited Fantastic Four captured most of the Frightful Four Medusa, however, escaped, only to be pursued in issue #44 by a man named Gorgon. It turned out that Medusa was a member of the exiled Royal Family of a hidden race of superhumans called the Inhumans, and in issue #45 readers first encountered their ruler, Black Bolt, his cousin Karnak, and his young female cousin Crystal, who quickly fell in love with the smitten Human Torch.

But just before the Inhumans storyline began came the most important change of all in the Marvel Comics of 1965. The Superman of the 1960s might never marry Lois Lane, but Lee and Kirby's Mister Fantastic would and did marry the Invisible Girl in FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #3. Almost all of the other Marvel heroes were in attendance, and thanks to Doctor Doom's machinations, so were many of Marvel's villains, who tried and failed to put a stop to the wedding. As a result the story became a grand celebration of the Marvel Universe as it stood in late 1965, only four years old but brimming with great, colorful characters and full of life. The wedding story ended with S.H.I.E.L.D. agents turning away two uninvited guests, who turned out to be Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. But in fact, as prime creators of the Marvel Universe, they should have been given a round of applause.

PETER SANDERSON

THE RIGOR MORTIS GUN AND

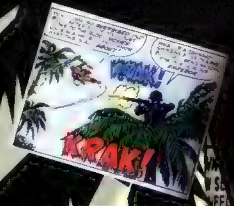
One of the most top secret weapons developed by the U.S. military during World War II was a nasty device known as the Rigor Mortis gun! This terrifying weapon, demonstrated here by "Dum Dum" Dugan and Co. in the pages of SGT. FURY & HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS #163, has the power to cause instant rigor mortis in its victims.

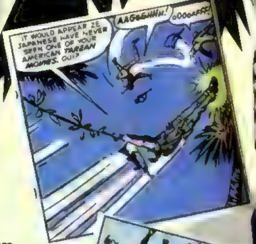
There is no defense from this horrifying weapon! One shot, and the body begins to stiffen; in seconds, total paralysis sets in. By the time the enemy soldier hits the ground, his body is hard as a rock! Just look at the German sniper as he falls out of the tree—unable to hold his gun anymore, he topples like a toy soldier!

No one is quite sure why the Rigor Mortis gun was first developed. Perhaps it was thought that it would make it easier for the enemy to bury their casualties. With the body already preserved in death, the opposing army was saved the cost of expensive embalming fluids!

The Rigor Mortis gun was used on a very limited basis during WW II, before being banned by the Geneva Convention in 1949. Ultimately, it was deemed just too ridiculous for use in armed warfare. Perhaps the real lesson here is: never trust a dangerous new weapon to a man named "Dum Dum"!

Back in World War II, enemy soldiers spent most of their time hiding up in trees. It therefore became necessary for enterprising U.S. soldiers to develop new and innovative ways to knock them down. Among the more creative methods employed: a knife, a grenade, swinging from a vine and blowing a bugle!

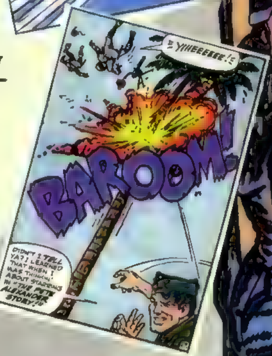




BAD GUYS IN TREES

Gabe Jones, who was the bugler for the Howling Commandos, once caused an enemy soldier to fall from a tree just by blowing an incredibly loud note on his horn! Dropping his gun and holding his ears, the enemy soldier jumped from the tree, screaming, "AAGGGHHH! That piercing NOISE! I cannot STAND it!"

Later, on that same page, the British Howler, Pinky, used a technique he learned from "the RUDDY movies"—swinging on a vine like Tarzan. After successfully taking down his foe, the proud Brit proclaimed, "BLIMEY! I knocked the ruddy bloke right out of his TREE! Perhaps after the war I can get a job as the MONKEY in one of those jungle flickers...WOT?" (Uh, jolly good, Pinky.)



In CAPT. SAVAGE #12, a Frenchman in Savage's unit also employs the vine-swinging technique, commenting, "It would appear ze Japanese have never seen one of your TARZAN MOVIES, oui?"

With clichéd dialogue like that, we're lucky France and England didn't declare war on us!

Barry Dutter

Beast Files

SUBJECT: EMPLATE

Vampires. The stuff of legends and nightmares. Beings of unimaginable power and ferocity who feed on the very life force of those around them.

Emplate is the mutant son of wealthy businessman Cartier St. Croix. Upon reaching puberty, Emplate discovered that he was a mutant. Not that this is unusual for mutants. (The onset of adolescence is usually the trigger for mutation manifestation.) What is unusual is what he mutated into. He was gifted not only with extraordinary powers, but also with the need to feed off of the genetic marrow of other mutants' bones. His every ability only seems to lend itself towards this end.

Emplate possesses the ability to feed on mutants via a mouth-like opening in his hands. When he feeds on a mutant, he gains the use of their powers as well as some of their body features and characteristics. Emplate is able to shunt himself inter-dimensionally, making him capable of approaching someone almost completely undetected. This inter-dimensional travel may even double as a form of teleportation. Then there is, perhaps, his most dangerous capability. With a glance he can not only know a body's genetic potential but also gain instant knowledge of that person's memories.

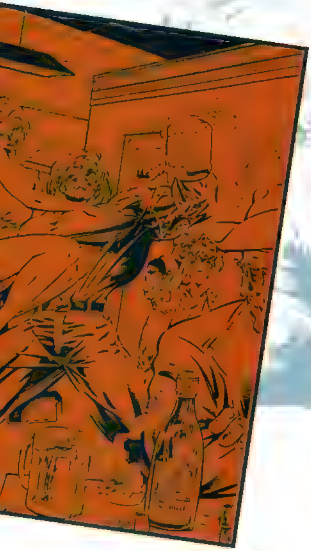
Of late, it has come to my attention that Emplate possesses one more staggering capability. Not only can he feed on mutants himself, but he can also employ others towards this end. Through some as of yet unknown fashion he is able to imbue others with the same mouth-like opening on their palms that he has. It is my understanding that this process also grants him a measure of control over his "minions" as well as the benefit of their directly "feeding" him.

While on the subject of minions, it might behoove me to add that he has been known to employ the services of four individuals for this purpose. [See Files: Edgerton, Gayle; Bulwark; Murmur; Vincente.]

Let us also not forget Emplate's diminutive driver, DOA. While it does not appear that DOA has any known powers, he does seem to serve some unknown purpose. This is one point which requires further investigation.

Notes: A very powerful loose cannon whose "taste" seems to lean towards the youngest generation of mutants. I must look into possible weaknesses to exploit. Perhaps there is something to be found in the recent revelation that the Generation X member M is his sister? Or maybe there is an avenue to be explored in his seeming need for a respirator? Then there is his weakest link of all... his NEED to feed. If only it were as simple as using a wooden stake...

HAMMER TO FALL



THE CLASSIC MARVEL SERIES, JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, FEATURED THE EXPLOITS OF THE LEGENDARY THUNDER GOD THOR, AS WELL AS HIS SUPPORTING CAST, THE NORSE GODS, FROM ISSUE #83 ON. THE TWIST ON TELLING THESE TALES TO A CONTEMPORARY COMIC BOOK AUDIENCE FELL ON THE CREATIVE SHOULDERS OF STAN "THE MAN" LEE AND THE LATE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN JACK "KING" KIRBY. THEIR STORIES WOULD TAKE THE GODS FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL SETTING, ASGARD, AND PLACE THEM, AS WELL AS THEIR INTERESTS, ON EARTH. SO READERS OF JIM TUNED IN TO SEE BATTLES BETWEEN THOR (WHEN NOT IN HIS MORTAL GUISE OF DOCTOR DONALD BLAKE) AND VILLAINS OF NORSE LEGEND WITH NEW YORK CITY AS A BACKDROP. THIS CONCEPT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND ESTABLISHED THOR AND THE ASGARDIANS AS MAJOR MARVEL PLAYERS. JIM'S AUDIENCE STAYED ON EVEN AFTER ISSUE #127 WHEN THE TITLE CHANGED ITS NAME TO THE MIGHTY THOR.

NOW THE SERIES IS GOING BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL TITLE. YES, THE MIGHTY THOR IS JIM AGAIN WHICH IS FITTING SINCE THE NORSE AVENGER IS APPARENTLY DESTROYED IN ISSUE #502 BY ONSLAUGHT.

ACCORDING TO JIM EDITOR MARK GRUENWALD, "WE'RE TAKING A ONE MONTH HIATUS AND THEN PICKING UP WITH WHERE THOR'S DISAPPEARANCE PLACES THE OTHER ASGARDIAN GODS IN #503."

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE SERIES'S PREMISE, GRUENWALD REPLIED, "ODIN, IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM, HAS USED THE RECENT 'WORLDENGINE' PLOT IN THOR #491-494 TO FREE THE ASGARDIAN PLAYERS FROM THE CYCLE OF RAGNAROK, THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS. THEN, AS HE DID WITH DON BLAKE, ODIN CASTS THEM INTO MORTAL IDENTITIES AND STRIPS THEIR GODLY MEMORIES. ODIN HOPED THAT WHEN YGGDRASIL, THE TREE OF LIFE, HAD BROUGHT ABOUT RAGNAROK, THE ASGARDIANS WOULD BE SPARED SINCE THEY WERE GODS NO LONGER.

"AFTERWARDS, HE WOULD RETURN THEM TO THEIR DIVINITY AND THEY WOULD ALL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER. THE STICKLER IS THAT THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN BECAUSE ODIN DIDN'T EXPECT THOR TO BE APPARENTLY DESTROYED, WHILE ANOTHER REASON WILL BE REVEALED IN ISSUE #503.

"AN OLD VILLAIN WHO HAS HAD PROBLEMS WITH ASGARD IN THE PAST WANTS TO END THE CYCLE OF ASGARDIAN REBIRTH BY KILLING ALL OF THEM WHILE THEY ARE IN THEIR VULNERABLE MORTAL STATE. THIS SETS RED NORVELL [INTRODUCED IN THOR.—TIM] AND HIS TEAM ON A QUEST TO LOCATE CLUES AS TO WHO THE LOST GODS SCATTERED ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ARE."

ASSISTANT EDITOR NANCY POLETTI ADDED, "AT FIRST, HOWEVER, NORVELL'S TEAM HAVE NO REASON TO SUSPECT THEIR BEING GODS. THEY ALL HAVE NORMAL LIVES, THEY DON'T HAVE POWERS AND IN A UNIQUE TWIST, THEY DON'T LOOK NORWEGIAN EITHER. INSTEAD, WE HAVE A MULTI-ETHNIC GROUP CONSISTING OF BLACK, ASIAN, HISPANIC, MALE, FEMALE, AND TEENAGER. THIS HELPS BECAUSE TRYING TO DISGUISE BLONDE-HAIRED, BLUE-EYED NORSE GODS WOULD BE TOUGH. THE ONE THING THAT TIES THESE CHARACTERS TOGETHER AT FIRST IS THAT THEY ARE ALL ATTACKED BY MYSTERIOUS MEN IN BLACK AND NONE OF THEM KNOW WHY.

"FEATURED CHARACTERS INCLUDE HAL DAW, A REFRIGERATION/AIR CONDITIONING REPAIRMAN," WHOM POLETTI DESCRIBED AS A "BIG" GUY. "THERE'S ALSO BARRY LANDERS, A PROFESSOR AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY; ERICKA MASTERS, A TOUGH NEW YORK CITY COP; HOWIE AND FRED BARKER, A MOTHER AND SON TEAM FROM FOREST HILLS, QUEENS; AND FINALLY, A SHADY COPORATE RAIDER KNOWN AS TSO GUNN. AMORA THE ENCHANTRESS WILL SHOW UP AT THE END OF THE FIRST ISSUE AND ODIN IS FEATURED AS A BACKGROUND PLAYER.

"LONGTIME THOR READERS WON'T KNOW WHICH GODS THESE ARE INITIALLY, BUT AS THE SERIES PROGRESSES, THE MYSTERY WILL UNFOLD. THE FIRST FEW ISSUES ENCOMPASS NORVELL TRYING TO CONTACT THE AMNESIAC ASGARDIANS ON EARTH, WHILE FOLLOWING ODIN'S INSTRUCTIONS TO DEFEAT THE VILLAINS BEFORE THEY'RE KILLED."

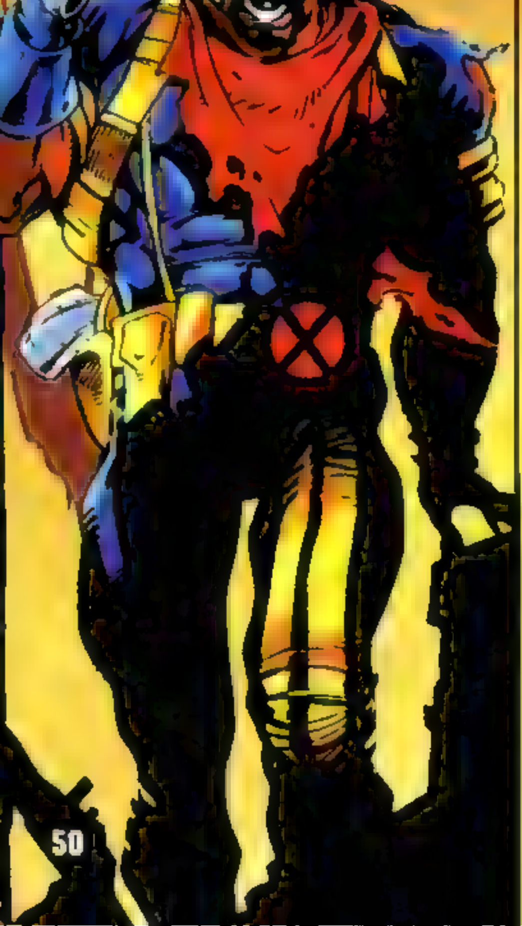
GRUENWALD ADDED, "THIS IS A VERY HEROIC STORY. THE THOR STRIP LOST SOMETHING WHEN IT GOT RID OF DON BLAKE; IT LOST ITS RELIABILITY FACTOR. WHILE THERE WON'T BE ANY TRANSFORMATIONS, THERE WILL BE THE BEST MIX OF HUMAN EMOTION AND OTHERWORLDLY DIMENSION. I'M REALLY JAZZED ABOUT THIS BOOK; WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO THINGS UNSEEN IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE."

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY IS WRITTEN MONTHLY BY TOM DEFALCO WITH ART WORK PROVIDED BY MIKE DEODATO STUDIOS. THIS ONGOING SERIES DEBUTS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

YES, GODS DO INDEED WALK THE EARTH. ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE JOURNEY?

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY FEATURING THE LOST GODS

- KARL BOLLERS



The XSE.

What is it? Or for that matter, what will it be? **XSE** stands for the **Xavier School of Enforcement**, a security team of an alternate future that deals with emplates, a strange variation on vampires that suck out mutant bone marrow to live on. To know exactly what the **XSE** is and what it stands for we have to go back to the future. No, Michael J. Fox is nowhere to be found but the person who will lead us on this lesson of the **XSE** is someone who was there.

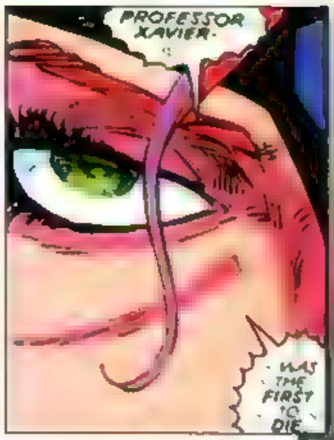
His name is and will be **Bishop**.

He's a mutant with the ability to absorb energy directed towards him and project that energy back to his attacker. **Bishop** also happens to be excellent in hand-to-hand combat skills. Those skills became quite useful when he transported to our world from an alternate future and fought the **X-Men**. Not long afterward, he himself became an **X-Man**.

Under the tutelage of **Storm** he's grown and learned much of our world and its ways, ways which vary greatly from his time. Now is our chance to learn more about him and the team he was a part of long before he became an **X-Men** is here.

Many questions have arisen about the **XSE**. The team of John Ostrander, writer of **Bishop**'s Limited Series ("The Mountjoy Crisis") and artist Josh Hood will supply many of the answers concerning **Bishop**, his past or is that future? As well as his years with the **XSE**.

If you're new to the man called **Bishop** this is a great chance to catch up. If you are familiar with some of his exploits, well, there's a lot more to learn. You might be surprised to know that **Bishop** was once a teacher at the **XSE** Academy. So it seems only natural for him to give a personalized history lesson of his past to the next generation of mutants, **Generation X**. There **Bishop** tells of his past and the history that surrounds him, his sister **Shard** and some of their fellow **XSE** students.



This is one class you don't want to cut.

In it you'll learn of **Bishop** and **Shard**'s early years in the Academy, what led to their joining, their rise through the ranks and much more. **Bishop** will explain a little of the world that he and his sister were born in and what the **XSE** stood for, both to the mutants and the humans of their time.

Shard, **Bishop**'s deceased sister, who now lives on in the form of a hologram [See current issues of **X-FACTOR**.—Tim], will be a major influence in her brother's life and career in their own time. We'll learn how **Bishop**'s little sister came of age and developed her powers. **Shard** and **Bishop**'s shared history will reveal why there was friction between them. Many gaps will be filled in regarding her history and how it relates to **Bishop**'s. **Shard** will learn that having a big brother looking out for you can sometimes work to your disadvantage. **Bishop** will also painfully explain how **Shard** came to be in her current holographic form.

The **XSE** Academy history will show some of the other characters that have briefly appeared in the **BISHOP** Limited Series. You'll learn when **Bishop** first met Malcolm and Randall, two of his closest friends and comrades in the **XSE** who were also mutants and were teleported along with **Bishop** into our time.

Don't be surprised if **Mountjoy** and **Fitzroy**, two recurring villains of **Bishop**'s acquaintance, make an appearance as well. After all, they're partially responsible for **Bishop**'s being transported into our time.

While teaching **Generation X**, **Bishop** will delve into the history of the emplates of the future. Speaking of brothers, there's also a lesson **Generation X** student Monet St. Croix (also known as **M**) will have a tough time dealing with: her evil brother Emplate.

There's even a chance that we'll learn who the traitor is that **Bishop**'s been talking about all this time.

Needless to say, this is **XSE** History 101. Class starts September 4th. Enroll early.

—John Lewandowski

THIS SUMMER
IS GOING TO
BE HOTTER
THAN TEXAS
ASPHALT
ON A SUMMER DAY!

MARVEL AND
IMAGE ARE
TEAMING UP
TO BRING
YOU SOME
UNBELIEVABLE
TALES OF
MARVEL MAYHEM
AND IMAGE
INSANITY.

FIRST UP IS MARVEL/EXTREME:
HERE'S A SNEAK PEEK OF

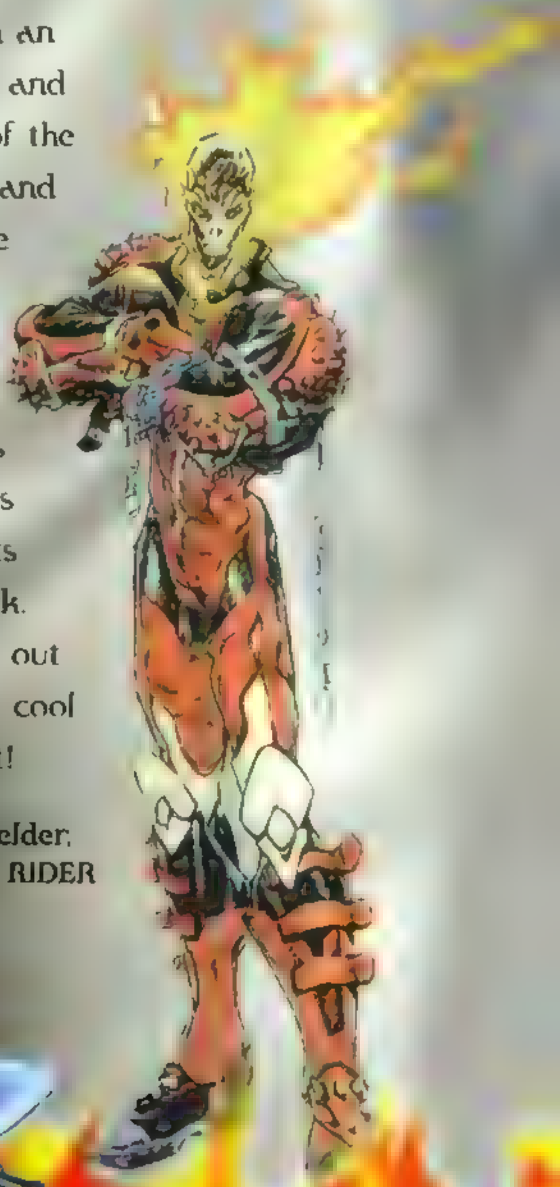
WOLVERINE/BADROCK

X-FORCE/YOUNGBLOOD

CABLE/PROPHET

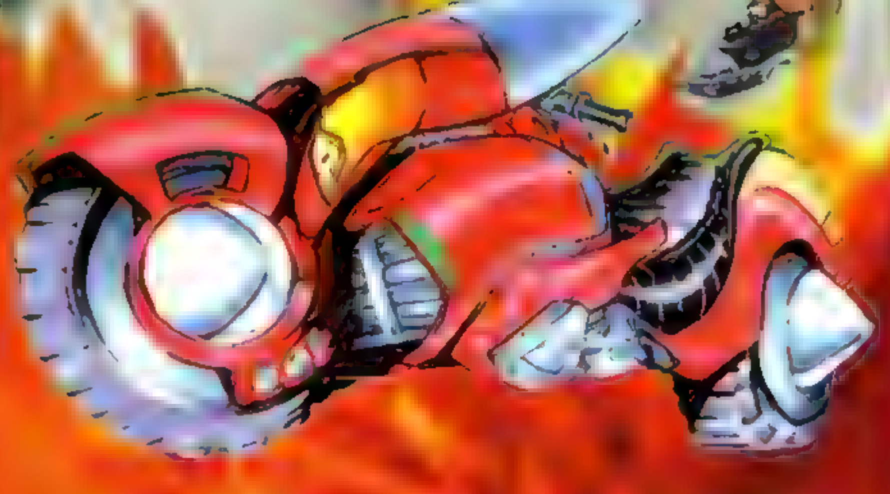
WHEN THE
MARVEL MUTANTS
GET TOGETHER WITH THE
INCOMPARABLE IMAGE
YOU KNOW STUFF
IS GONNA FLY...
THE BAD GUYS!

GHOST RIDER



One of the main things we try to do with the Ghost Rider is to keep him as dangerous and cool as possible - and a lot of that has to do with the fashions and fears of the times. In the 70s biker gangs and Evel Knievel embodied that and so we got Johnny Blaze and the introduction of motorcycles to the mythos. In the 80s the black and grey outfit was more in keeping with the decade's conception of the night and terror. As we go into the next century, we turn an eye towards the neon and cyberpunk elements of the night - and the bike and outfit relfect this. We turned to Adam Pollina because of all the modern Marvel Visionaries his outlook reflects what's going on in the streets and clubs of New York. That ultimately comes out in the dangerous and cool look of the new outfit!

-James "Professor" Felder,
editor GHOST RIDER



Be careful what you
say to her,
she's hiding a crossbow
under that dress.
And for the few who aren't impressed, let's not forget Shadow's **black belt in Ninjitsu**, Ph.D. in computer science, and the two other X-PERTS fighting alongside who can do just as much damage. And all three of these trained government specialists are just waiting for you to control them... pounding terrorists, **torturing the ones who won't cooperate**, hacking Aqua's computer system. All for the sake of National Security. And while you wield your X-PERTS against the bad guys, you'll be doing so with **motion captured SGI rendered graphics**, which means saving the free world will look better than ever... after all, just look how she turned out.
GENESIS
X-PERTS
TEEN
SEGA
GENESIS
For more info visit Sega's web site at
http://www.segaoa.com
or on Compuserve at GO SEGA
TEEN
AGES 13+

DAREDEVIL No.358

KARL KESEL/CARY NORD/MATT RYAN

Elektra gets her own series this month, but there's a new woman in DD's life—and she just might be the death of him! Have Karl Kesel (SPIDER-BOY) and Cary Nord (BRUCE WAYNE: AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.) introduced the Man Without Fear's next great femme fatale? And if so, why is Daredevil smiling? I guess two months in a row on WIZARD's "Picks" list will do that to you!

ELEKTRA SAGA BOOK ONE

FRANK MILLER/FRANK MILLER/KLAUS JANSON

Reprinting the highlights of Elektra's history from the classic issues of DAREDEVIL. This affordable 96-page collection serves as a great intro to this month's ELEKTRA #1!

FANTASTIC FOUR No.1

JIM LEE & BRANDON CHOI/JIM LEE/ SCOTT WILLIAMS

Jim Lee Launches The World's Greatest Comic Magazine! Jim Lee returns to Marvel! Four intrepid adventurers challenge the unknown and rocket into the stars—only to be bombarded by mysterious cosmic rays! Crashing to the Earth, the foursome discovers they've developed strange and amazing powers! Sound familiar? It should! But it sure won't look familiar! Jim Lee and Brandon Choi (WILDC.A.T.S.) supercharge Marvel's first family in this 48-page debut!

PRIME No.12

Cover by HUMBERTO RAMOS

KEITH GIFFEN/AL RIO

Continuing a three-part story arc from the manic mind of Keith Giffen! Can Prime's essence be stolen? Perhaps, when one of the most powerful men on Earth thinks, "To defeat Prime, one must become Prime!"

on sale september 11

THE AMALGAM AGE OF COMICS: THE MARVEL COMICS COLLECTION

Trade Paperback

Wraparound Cover By DAVE GIBBONS & ANGUS MCKIE

Collecting Marvel's Flaming Hot Amalgam Comics! Gathered in one volume for the first time: SPIDER-BOY, MAGNETO & THE MAGNETIC MEN, BULLETS & BRACELETS, SPEED DEMON, BRUCE WAYNE: AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. and X-PATROL! Spinning out of MARVEL VERSUS DC, this shared universe merged cool characters like Captain America and Superman to get the star-spangled Super Soldier! It's never-before imagined stories by top talents including Mark Waid, Roger Cruz, Karl Kesel, Chuck Dixon, Cary Nord, John Ostrander, Gary Frank, Jeff Matsuda and Mike Wieringo! Now all the fun is bottled in a handy, 160-page package—with a new, wraparound cover by Dave Gibbons!

CAPTAIN AMERICA No.1

ROB LIEFELD & CHUCK DIXON/ROB LIEFELD/JONATHAN SIBAL

The Legend Lives With The New Adventures Of Captain America! Rob Liefeld burst upon the scene with his bold style in NEW MUTANTS and X-FORCE. He made history when he launched his own world of heroes through Image Comics. Now he and writer Chuck Dixon (DETECTIVE COMICS) strike again with the all-new adventures of the super soldier! In this 48-page debut issue: a befuddled man awakens to an American nightmare of terrorism and race wars. Who is he? Why is he targeted by the neo-Nazi movement called the Red Skull? Why is he plagued by strange dreams of World War II? Now the waiting is over: one man stands ready to fight for freedom—and his name is Captain America!

ELEKTRA SAGA BOOK TWO

FRANK MILLER/FRANK MILLER/KLAUS JANSON

Reprinting the highlights of Elektra's history from the classic issues of DAREDEVIL. This affordable 96-page collection serves as a great intro to this month's ELEKTRA #1!

GHOST RIDER No.79

IVAN VELEZ JR./SALVADOR LAROCCA/SERGIO MELIA

Guest-starring the female fury known as Valkyrie! As Ghost Rider takes a bold step into his future (with a brand new costume and bike designed by X-FORCE's Adam Pollina) a secret from his dark past comes looking to crush his little flaming skull!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY No.503

TOM DEFALCO/MIKE DEODATO JR/DEODATO STUDIOS.

In 1966, JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY Became THOR—30 Years Later The Journey Continues! The Thunder God disappeared in ONSLAUGHT: MARVEL UNIVERSE, and that means Asgard needs some serious protection! Now eight strangers are recruited for a secret, deadly adventure. Who are they? Why have they been selected? And most important, are they really the missing, amnesiac Norse gods? Those are just some of the questions that will be explored in the all-new, all-different JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!

LAST AVENGERS STORY

Trade Paperback

PETER DAVID/ARIEL OLIVETTI

Collecting the 96-page, lushly painted tale of the Alterniverse revealing the final fate of the Avengers! When Ultron slaughters the future's heroes, an elderly Hank Pym must assemble all the crimefighters he can to re-earn the name Avengers! But can the daughter of She-Hulk, a blind Hawkeye, an aged Human Torch and the mutant called Cannonball defeat the villains that killed the Earth's Mightiest Heroes?

RUNE No.1

Flip Covers By KYLE HOTZ & THE PANDER BROTHERS

DOUG MOENCH & JAMES FELDER/KYLE HOTZ & THE PANDER BROS./TIM BRADSTREET

The Energy-Sucking Vampire Returns To His Gothic Roots! Rune is back for more in a freaked-out flip-book! On side one: writer Doug Moench (BATMAN) and Kyle Hotz unveil the return of the Ultraverse's most popular anti-hero as the Prince of the Void reclaims his bloody throne! On the flip side: Rune's past is explored during the introduction of a new villain created in an exclusive contest in WIZARD!

MARVEL HEROES

ELEKTRA LIVES AGAIN Bookshelf Edition

FRANK MILLER/FRANK MILLER & LYNN VARLEY

Reprinting Frank Miller's return to the assassin named Elektra! She's dead, isn't

she? Matt Murdock keeps telling himself that the woman who stole his heart died in his arms. So why does he awaken at night with her laughter echoing through his lonely home? Dead or alive, she's back. Originally published as a hard cover volume, Frank Miller wrote and illustrated this 80-page adventure. Now published in this affordable bookshelf edition.

INCREDIBLE HULK No.447

PETER DAVID/MIKE DEODATO JR.

1st Issue Featuring The Unleashed Hulk—And Superstar Penciler, Mike Deodato Jr! In this special "jump-on" issue: the government goes after the green goliath, who finally draws a very big line in the sand and stands his ground. With the presence of Banner (the only thing that's been keeping Hulk in check) gone, there's no holding the incredible one back! This is it, the moment you have waited years for: the era of the Banner-less, unhinged Hulk!

IRON MAN No.1

JIM LEE & SCOTT LOBDELL/WHILCE PORTACIO/SCOTT WILLIAMS

Jim Lee Begins The Second Industrial Revolution! But he's not alone. Scott Lobdell (UNCANNY X-MEN), Whilce Portacio (WETWORKS) and Scott Williams have joined him to construct the new tales of the armored avenger! Who is the man behind the iron mask? How will he trigger the origin of the monstrosity called the Hulk? And how does this green goliath in turn cause the creation of Iron Man? Tony Stark, Happy Hogan, Hydra, Dr. Leonard Samson, Bruce Banner and all the familiar faces are in this 48-page first issue, they've just been re-engineered for the '90's!

PUNISHER No.13

JOHN OSTRANDER/TOM LYLE

The Punisher—working for S.H.I.E.L.D?! It looks like the man who killed Nick Fury is now taking orders from his espionage strike-force! But when Frank Castle goes up against three super-powered agents, will his first impossible mission also be his last?

ULTRAFORCE No.12

Cover by MIKE DEODATO JR.

LEN WEIN/MIKE DEODATO STUDIOS

The action from ALL-NEW EXILES #12 continues here! The power-stealing alien called Maxis continues its feeding frenzy. Next course: UltraForce! If Maxis scarfs the 'Force, the Earth is doomed! Can the Exiles stall the slaughter? The feast continues in this month's ULTRAVERSE UNLIMITED #2!

WHAT IF? No.91

JOE KELLY/JAMES DALY

Starring the Hulk! What happens when Banner is the obnoxious, violent one and the Hulk is Mr. nice guy?!

on sale september 25

2099: WORLD OF TOMORROW No.3

BEN RAAB & JOE KELLY/MIKE MCKONE & MIKE MILLER/ART THIBERT

It's 48 pages featuring two stories set in Marvel's fantastic futureverse! First up, Spider-Man is trapped in the newly risen kingdom called Latveria! Then, Doom and the X-Men foes known as the Phalanx race to find the mysterious Scout! What does he know, and how will it affect the world of tomorrow?

AVENGERS No.1

ROB LIEFELD & JIM VALENTINO/ROB LIEFELD & CHAP YAEP/JONATHAN SIBAL & MARLO ALQUIZA

The Earth's Mightiest Heroes Assemble—For The First Time! Off the coast of Norway a man is found encased in amber—a man revealed to be a fighting mad Thor! Now Captain America must lead his newly formed team into battle with the trickster Loki and a Thunder God caught in a berserker's rage! It's action and drama in the mighty Marvel manner when Rob Liefeld, Jim Valentino (SHADOWHAWK) and Chap Yaep (BADROCK/WOLVERINE) reunite the Avengers as you've never seen them before!

ELEKTRA No.1

PETER MILLIGAN/MIKE DEODATO JR./DEODATO STUDIOS

Leaping From The Pages Of WOLVERINE Into Her Own Monthly Series! Daredevil broke her heart, Bullseye killed her, and the Hand orchestrated her resurrection—now the beautiful assassin is taking control of her life in her own ongoing title! This landmark issue establishes Elektra's new life, introduces a new cast of characters, and brings back a very old yearning to kill! Building upon her pre-existing following, Elektra has re-established her status as a fan-favorite through recent appearances in issues of WOLVERINE and MARVEL VERSUS DC. Now is her time to step into the spotlight, guided by the team of Peter Milligan (FURTHER ADVENTURES OF CYCLOPS AND PHOENIX) and Mike Deodato Jr!

MARVEL FANFARE No.3

JOE KELLY/ROBERT BROWN/MIKE WITHERBY

Starring Spider-Man and Ghost Rider! The wild Wendigo runs free in the streets of New York City! Last issue, it took the combined might of Wolverine and the Hulk to catch him. Do Spidey and the Spirit of Vengeance have the power to take him down before his dark secret consumes him—or before he consumes human flesh? Bring a bib for the latest lip-smacking issue!

SILVER SURFER No.122

GEORGE PEREZ/SCOT EATON/DON HUDSON

After 11 issues exploring the other side of the universe, Norrin Radd must return to the Marvel Universe he once called home—but at what cost?

STARLORD MEGAZINE

Cover by JOHN BYRNE

CHRIS CLAREMONT/JOHN BYRNE/TERRY AUSTIN

Before UNCANNY X-MEN, Byrne, Claremont & Austin united to unleash STARLORD! Reprinting the 64-page sci-fi adventure by the classic team which brought you some of the greatest issues of the mighty mutants. Plus: a new cover by John Byrne and a preview of next month's fully-painted STARLORD limited series by novelist Timothy Zahn and Dan Lawlis!

ULTRAVERSE UNLIMITED No.2

LEN WEIN/KEVIN WEST

UltraForce And The All-New Exiles Make Their Final Stand! Who trashed New York City? Who obliterated the planet Ozama? What is the fate of the Ultraverse's mightiest heroes? Find out as the two teams tag up in the ruins of the Big Apple for final combat with Maxis! It's a battle which will not only change the line-up of UltraForce, but will also determine the existence of the Exiles!

SPIDER-MAN

on sale september 4

SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN No.10

TODD DEZAGO/MIKE WIERINGO/RICHARD CASE

The evil, walking, talking pile o' bees known as Swarm has taken over a research complex in New York—and his army of crazed, killer bees are preying on the city already devastated by Onslaught! Is one hero, namely Spider-Man, enough to stop this horrific horde?

SPIDER-MAN INFLATABLE

Celebrate the return on the one, true Spider-Man with your own life-size, inflatable Web Head!

on sale september 11

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN No.417

TOM DEFALCO/RON GARNEY

Revealed at last: the shocking secrets of Scrier and Judas Traveler! The deadly duo played a key role in the lives of Peter Parker and Ben Reilly—now Spider-Man discovers everything he thought he knew about them is wrong! The saga of the clone is coming to an end (starting in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #240), and the unraveling of all the mysteries starts here! Plus: he made CAPTAIN AMERICA an eye candy feast, now Spidey gets the goods by guest-penciler Ron Garney!

SPIDER-MAN: REDEMPTION

No.3 (of 4)

J.M. DEMATTEIS/MIKE ZECK/BOB MCLEOD

Continuing the all-new limited series by the creative team behind "Kraven's Last Hunt!" When the woman he loves is arrested for murder, how far is Spider-Man willing to go to set her free? Plus: witness the fruition of Kaine's master plan of vengeance as he drives both Ben Reilly and himself one step closer to the grave!

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN

No.15

KURT BUSIEK/PAT OLLIFFE/AL VEY

Gordon, Betty Brant's goodfella boyfriend, returns with a plan to seize control of the Bugle and squash our web-headed hero! "UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN just might be, penny for penny, the best darned comic on the shelves today." (WIZARD)

THE ADVENTURES OF SPIDER-MAN

No.8

NEL YOMTOV/ALEX SAVIUK

The Kingpin returns—with a hostage named Mary Jane! It's all-new, bargain-priced, animated action based on the hit cartoon!

SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN '96

J.M. DEMATTEIS/SHAWN MCMANUS

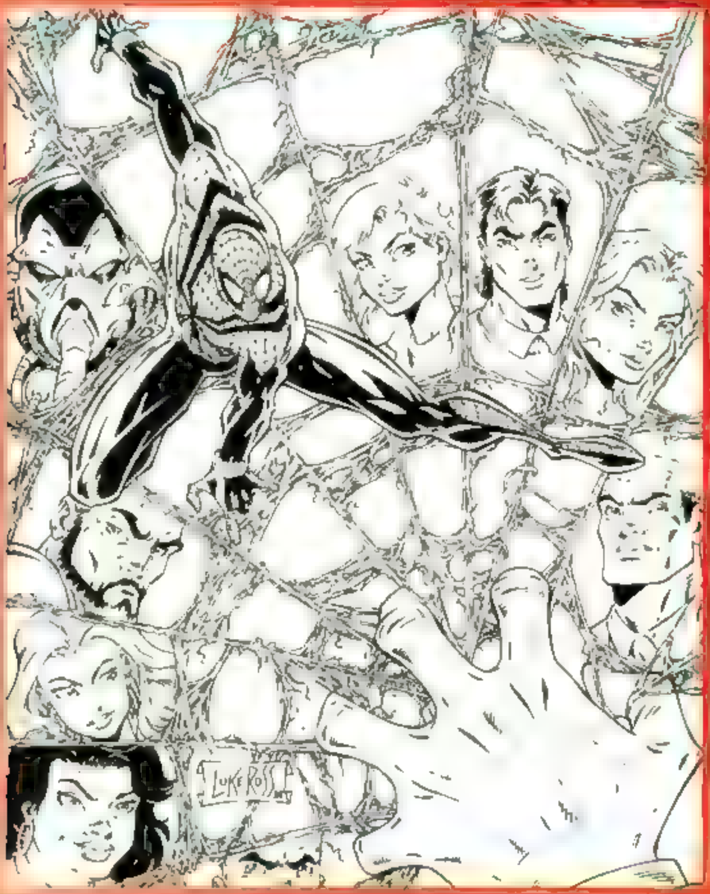
A 64-page companion piece to "Kraven's Last Hunt," one of the most popular Spider-Man sagas of all! This Spidey special features a moody retelling of the first meeting between a young Wall-Crawler and Kraven the Hunter—exposing never-before-revealed secrets about the Chameleon, Kraven and our web slinging hero!

SPIDER-MAN No.74

HOWARD MACKIE/JOHN ROMITA JR./AL WILLIAMSON

It's Spider-Man and Daredevil together again, drawn by Mr. MAN WITHOUT FEAR himself, John Romita Jr! The mysterious Fortunato tightens his brutal grip on the New York underworld, with the high-tech weapons of Hydra behind him! Only Spidey and DD can stop the Big Apple from exploding into an all-out warzone!

on sale september 25



SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

No.240

TODD DEZAGO/LUKE ROSS/JOHN STANISCI

"BOOK OF REVELATIONS"—PART I of 4

Beginning The Story That Re-Establishes The One, True Spider-Man! Seward Trainer has escaped his captors and seeks out Spidey, carrying with him secrets that throw everything we "know" into doubt! Unfortunately, Gaunt is hot in pursuit, determined to keep those secrets out of the Web Slinger's hands! Plus: learn the secret identity of Gaunt—and the more shocking identity of his employer! Could this be the real mastermind behind the entire clone saga? The readers have spoken and Marvel has listened: fandom wants a solution to the clone question, and they're going to get it! It's been nearly six months since a multi-part crossover linked the core Spider-titles, and we've saved up a doozy: October's historic SPIDER-MAN #75 features the establishment of the Wall Crawler we all know and love—and the story that does it starts here!

VENOM: THE HUNGER

No.4 (of 4)

LEN KAMINSKI/TED HALSTED/SCOTT KOBLISH

Concluding the most twisted Venom storyline of all! He stole Eddie's symbiote and left him for dead! Now, Venom strikes back at the machiavellian Dr. Paine!

SPIDER-MAN

X-MEN

CABLE No.37

JEFF LOEB/IAN CHURCHILL/SCOTT HANNA

The Askani'son is back, with the spread of the techno-virus conquered—now he has to deal with the return of the man they call Kane!

UNCANNY ORIGINS No.3

MATT IDELSON/DAVE HOOVER/BILL ANDERSON

The avenging Angel returns in this month's UNCANNY X-MEN #338, so doesn't this seem like a heavenly time for readers to catch up his past history? It's another self-contained, 99 cent, reader-friendly introduction to the world of X!

UNCANNY X-MEN No.338

SCOTT LOBDELL/JOE MADUREIRA/TIM TOWNSEND

The high-flying Angel is back! That's right—the flesh and blood Warren Worthington III, not the razor winged Archangel! So why isn't that cause for celebration? Maybe because the X-Men can't shake the feeling that it's all part of Apocalypse's master plan! Plus: the effects of Psylocke's exposure to the Crimson Dawn are revealed!

X-FORCE MEGAZINE

LOUISE SIMONSON/ROB LIEFELD

The New Mutants become X-Force! How did Professor X's students transform into Cable's commandos? Those who missed it can check out some of Rob Liefeld's early work for Marvel in this 96-page collection, reprinting NEW MUTANTS #98-100.

X.S.E. No.1 (of 2)

JOHN OSTRANDER/JOSH HOOD

Revealed: The Secrets Of The X-Men's Soldier Siblings, Bishop And Shard! We all know that Bishop is the warrior from the future who traveled through time to fight alongside the X-Men. We also know that his sister, Shard, has done the same to join X-Factor—as a hologram. There are, however, many things we don't know: What was their life like as soldiers in the X.S.E? Why did Bishop abandon the administrative post he worked so hard to attain? How did the feud between Bishop and Fitzroy begin? Why was their friction between Shard and her brother? How did Shard die—only to live again as a hologram? Writer John Ostrader (BISHOP) fills in the gaps of these fan favorites in a four issue series set in the nightmarish future of the X-Men!

THE ADVENTURES OF THE X-MEN No.8

RALPH MACCHIO/BEN HERRERA/GARY MARTIN

The ragin' Cajun called Gambit returns to his home turf in New Orleans—only to find a decades-old conflict ready to tear apart the Big Easy!

GENERATION X No.21

SCOTT LOBDELL/CHRIS BACHALO/MARK BUCKINGHAM

Skin and Chamber return to the inner city of Los Angeles on a bizarre mission. Why are they there? To help a new friend track down the only woman he's ever loved. Why is this mission considered "bizarre?" Because the woman is Beverly Switzer—and the fine feathered friend is Howard the Duck! You'll quack up when you read "To Live and Die and Molt in L.A."

GENERATION X '96

Cover by MICHAEL GOLDEN

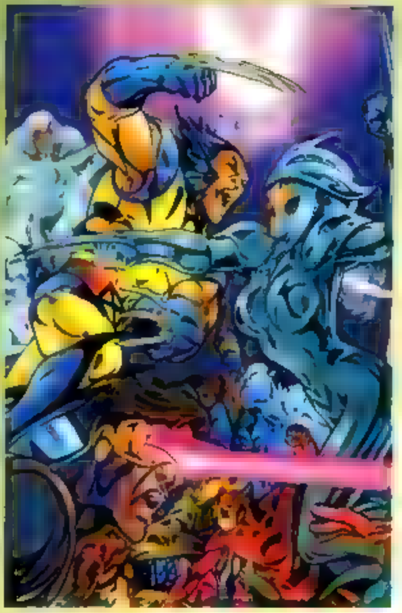
MICHAEL GOLDEN/JEFF JOHNSON/DAN PANOSIAN

They caused chaos at the trial of Magneto, now the terrible twins known as Fenris return! The next generation of X-Men get swept up on a tale of fear, prejudice and the ties that bind humans and mutants. Plus: a back-up tale written and drawn by Michael Golden!

PROFESSOR X & THE X-MEN No.13

ART HOLCOMB/NICK GNAZZO/IAN AKIN

He's big, he's brown, and he has a shocking tie to Professor X! Nothing can stop the Juggernaut in this bargain-priced title!



X-FACTOR No.128

HOWARD MACKIE/JEFF MATSUDA/AL MILGROM

X-Factor—Hunting Mutants For The Government?! We weren't kidding when we said the events of Onslaught would rock the Marvel Universe. The team now leads the "Hound Program," and if you're a mutant, you're either working for the government or running from the government. Plus: Graydon Creed takes one step closer to the Presidency.

X-MEN/CLANDESTINE No.2 (of 2)

Wraparound Cover by ALAN DAVIS AND MARK FARMER

ALAN DAVIS/ALAN DAVIS/MARK FARMER

Alan Davis unites comicdom's most popular team and most mysterious team! Why does Wolverine have his adamantium claws back? Why is Whallop fighting Juggernaut and Sabretooth? Why does Kitty give new costumes to the Crimson Crusader and Imp? Who is Aunt Gracie? What ties does the alien known as Synraith have to these two uncanny groups? Writer/artist Alan Davis answers all in 48 pages!

EXCALIBUR No.103

WARREN ELLIS/CARLOS PACHECO

Colossus, Kitty and Nightcrawler battle—Colossus, Kitty and Nightcrawler?! Confused? So are they!

X-MAN No.21

TERRY KAVANAGH/ROGER CRUZ/BUD LAROSA

1st Issue By New Penciler Roger Cruz! He's reunited with Threnody once again, he's hanging in the Big Apple, and he's in control of his life for the first time. Nate finally has it all worked out, right? Not if Selene and Madelyne have their way!

X-MEN No.58

SCOTT LOBDELL/ANDY KUBERT

Who are the X-Men's biggest worry: the government troops hunting them or their internal feuding? While Scott and Jean try to find a replacement for their damaged mansion, Gambit and Magneto (now calling himself Joseph) go for each other's throats! But does Rogue have any desire to play the woman in the middle?

X-MEN MEGAZINE

CHRIS CLAREMONT/JIM LEE

The X-Men's excellent adventure in the Savage Land and deep space! The Shi'Ar, rampaging dinosaurs, the Imperial Guard, Magneto and Rogue's dangerous liaison—this one has it all! Now that he's back, those that missed it can feast on some of Jim Lee's finest work for Marvel in this 96-page collection, reprinting UNCANNY X-MEN #273-275.

X-MEN: THE RISE OF APOCALYPSE No.2 (of 4)

TERRY KAVANAGH/ADAM POLLINA

Continuing the origin of the X-Men's most infamous foe! In ancient Egypt, the warlord Ozymandias plots to steal the "Knowledge of the Ages" from the dread Rama-Tut as he searches for the last survivor of the People of the Sand. Meanwhile, young En Sabah Nur sees signs of a greater destiny in the the appearances of four fantastic adventurers from the future! How did the monster behind the "Age of Apocalypse" rise in power? Terry Kavanagh (X-MAN) and Adam Pollina (X-FORCE) spill the secrets!

MAGNETO No.1 (of 4)

PETER MILLIGAN/KELLEY JONES/JOHN BEATTY

The X-Men's Arch-Enemy Has Returned—Or Has He? Following his mind-wipe and fall to Earth in the pages of X-MEN, Magneto is back. Oddly, he now calls himself Joseph, doesn't remember his past, and looks twenty years younger. Following the Onslaught war, he lives among his once-hated enemies, the mutants known as the X-Men. Should they tell him who he once was, or will that only trigger a relapse to evil? Perhaps his son, the speedster called Quicksilver can supply an answer. Peter Milligan (THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF CYCLOPS AND PHOENIX) and Kelley Jones (BATMAN) take the villain the fans love to hate on a journey of self discovery which could deliver salvation—or bring his ultimate downfall.

WOLVERINE No.107

LARRY HAMA/VAL SEMEIKS

The Prologue To This Month's ELEKTRA #1! It began in WOLVERINE #100: the female assassin known as Elektra was sent to watch over the dangerously feral Logan. For months they have danced the fine line between war and peace. Now it is time for Elektra to begin her new life—but is Wolverine ready to stand on his own?

X-FORCE No.60

JEPH LOEB/HARRY CASTRILLO

Who is Shatterstar? He believes he's an alien bred for warfare, but can he trust his own mind, and will X-Force discover that the truth is stranger than (science) fiction? The secrets are revealed as the team is visited by guest-star Long Shot!

X-MEN '96

LARRY HAMA/ROBERTO FLORES

Love is a battlefield—when the players are Gambit, Rogue and Magneto! Plus: the reunion of Jubilee and Wolverine! Hearts and bones are broken in this 64-page lovefest!

X-MEN: MUTANT MASSACRE Trade Paperback

Various

Collected for the first time: the X-Men's bloodiest adventure, the "Mutant Massacre!" When Mister Sinister sends his maniacal Marauders into the Morlock Tunnels on a mission to kill everything that moves, you know the X-Men aren't going to be happy! During this status-quo shattering saga the Angel lost his wings, Colossus took a life, Psylocke joined the X-Men and Wolverine went claw-to-claw with Sabretooth! This 256-page volume reprints UNCANNY X-MEN #210- 213, NEW MUTANTS #46, THOR #373 & 374, POWER PACK #27 and X-FACTOR #9-11.

X-MEN: PRYDE & WISDOM No.3 (of 3)

WARREN ELLIS/TERRY DODSON/KARL STORY

Concluding Kitty Pryde and Pete Wisdom's limited series—shooting straight from the pages of EXCALIBUR by the creative team behind STORM!

MARVEL MEDIA

INDEPENDENCE DAY Trade Paperback

RALPH MACCHIO/KEVIN NOWLAN, GABRIEL GECKO, LEONARD KIRK, KYLE HOTZ & THE PANDER BROS.

Collecting INDEPENDENCE DAY #0-2! The top-secret prequel and intense director's cut of this summer's sci-fi blockbuster are gathered for the first time in this 96-page compilation! July 2nd: the day they arrive. July 3rd: the day they attack. July 4th: the day we fight back! Dean Devlin and Roland Emmerich, the team behind Stargate strike again with the alien invasion everybody is talking about! "If there's one summer film that has caught the attention of the entire movie industry it's Independence Day." (THE NEW YORK TIMES)

DOCTOR WHO No.243

VARIOUS

Continuing the official, full-color photo magazine featuring interviews, articles and comics celebrating the many lives of the legendary Doctor Who. Yes, the same Doctor Who that starred in the nationally broadcast Fox TV movie!

DISNEY COMIC HITS No.14

Tbd

Woody, Buzz Lightyear and the rest of the Toy Story gang return to star in all-new adventures! This special issue coincides with the nationwide, October release of the soon-to-be best selling Toy Story home video!

STAR TREK: VOYAGER No.1

LAURIE SUTTON/JESUS REDONDO

Launching The Ongoing Series Based On STAR TREK: VOYAGER ! Featuring all-new adventures starring the characters of the linchpin program of the new United Paramount Network! Millions of viewers tune in each week to follow the story of the Starfleet crew trapped in the far reaches of the Delta Quadrant. Now the adventure continues in the first-ever comic book based on Star Trek: Voyager! In this debut issue, the Voyager risks all to save Neelix's people. But when the Talaxians are sucked into an interdimensional rift, will the crew of the Voyager follow? A three-part thriller begins here!

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE 9 No.1

HOWARD WEINSTEIN/TOM GRINDBERG/AL MILGROM

Beginning The STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE 9 Monthly Series! Three-time New York Times best-seller Star Trek author Howard Weinstein teams with Marvel's resident cosmic commando, Tom Grindberg (SILVER SURFER), to start a bold new era of adventure based on the hit show that airs weekly on more than 200 television stations! In this 40-page debut issue, the station gets yanked through the wormhole into the Gamma Quandrant! What could possibly be behind this tragic turn-of-events? A power that terrifies even the fearsome Jem'Hadar! It's chapter one of a spine-tingling two-part story!

STAR TREK: UNLIMITED No.1

DAN ABNETT & IAN EDGINTON

MARK BUCKINGHAM/JEROME MOORE

KEV SUTHERLAND & AL WILLIAMSON

First Unlimited Issue: Twice The Size! Twice The Trek! Do you like both the original Star Trek series and Star Trek: The Next Generation? Now both cravings can be satisfied in this all-new, 56-page, bi-monthly series! First, in the debut Star Trek story, only Captain Kirk can stop the all-out interstellar war brewing between the Federation and the Gorn! Then, in the debut Star Trek: The Next Generation adventure, the Enterprise and the Lom must supervise first contact with an unknown civilization called the Endrel. The problem: the Lom's Prime Directive and the Federation's Prime Directive have opposite meanings. How can Captain Picard protect the Endrel without violating Starfleet's code of honor? Celebrate "30 Years of Star Trek" with the crew that began the phenomenon and the crew that continues the legend on the silver screen!

MARVEL LICENSED PRODUCTS

BERKLEY BOOKS

THE ULTIMATE X-MEN Trade Paperback

From Berkleyís Boulevard Books imprint comes this gripping new anthology edited by Stan Lee featuring over a dozen new tales starring the top-selling mutant heroes dealing with their greatest foes, as well as the day-to-day trials of being mutants — trying to protect the world theyíve sworn to protect, a world that hates them for what they are! Wolverine, Gambit and the rest of Marvelís mightiest mutants are all here in prose tales of spectacular adventure — mutant style! Each tale features an illustration by a top X-Men artist from old favorites to todayís hottest talents! Cover by Mike Zeck & Phil Zimmelman. 352-pages.

CREATIVE LICENSE

Available again are these powerful pewter figures.

WOLVERINE PEWTER FIGURE

An unpainted, reduced version of the popular Wolverine porcelain released in 1994. This pewter Wolvie is perched on a newly sculpted rockand is approximately 3î to 4î in height.

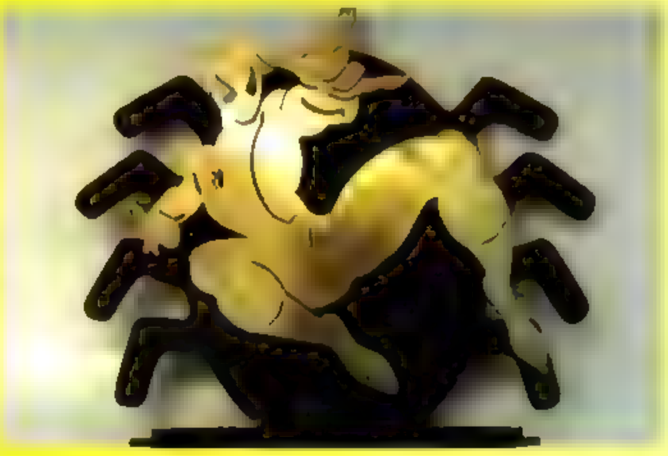
SPIDER-MAN PEWTER PAPERWEIGHT

Based on the famous John Romita Sr. pose of Spidey crouched down on all fours, this figure is approximately 3-1/2î long.

LASER MACH

X-MEN LASER SCULPTURE/PEN HOLDER

ìXî truly marks the spot with this metal reproduction of the classic ìXî icon mounted on a wood base with attached pen holder. Perfect for that executive retailerís desk set!



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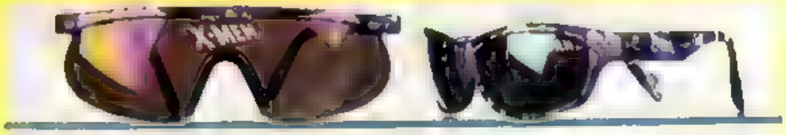

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SHIP SHAPE

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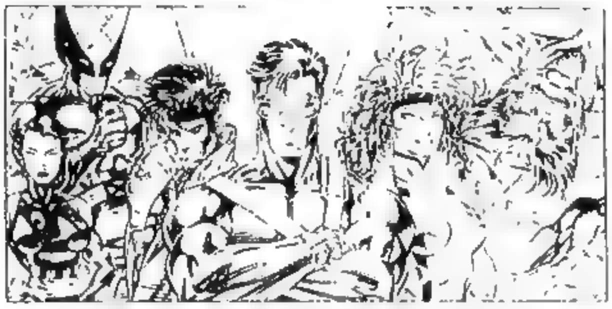

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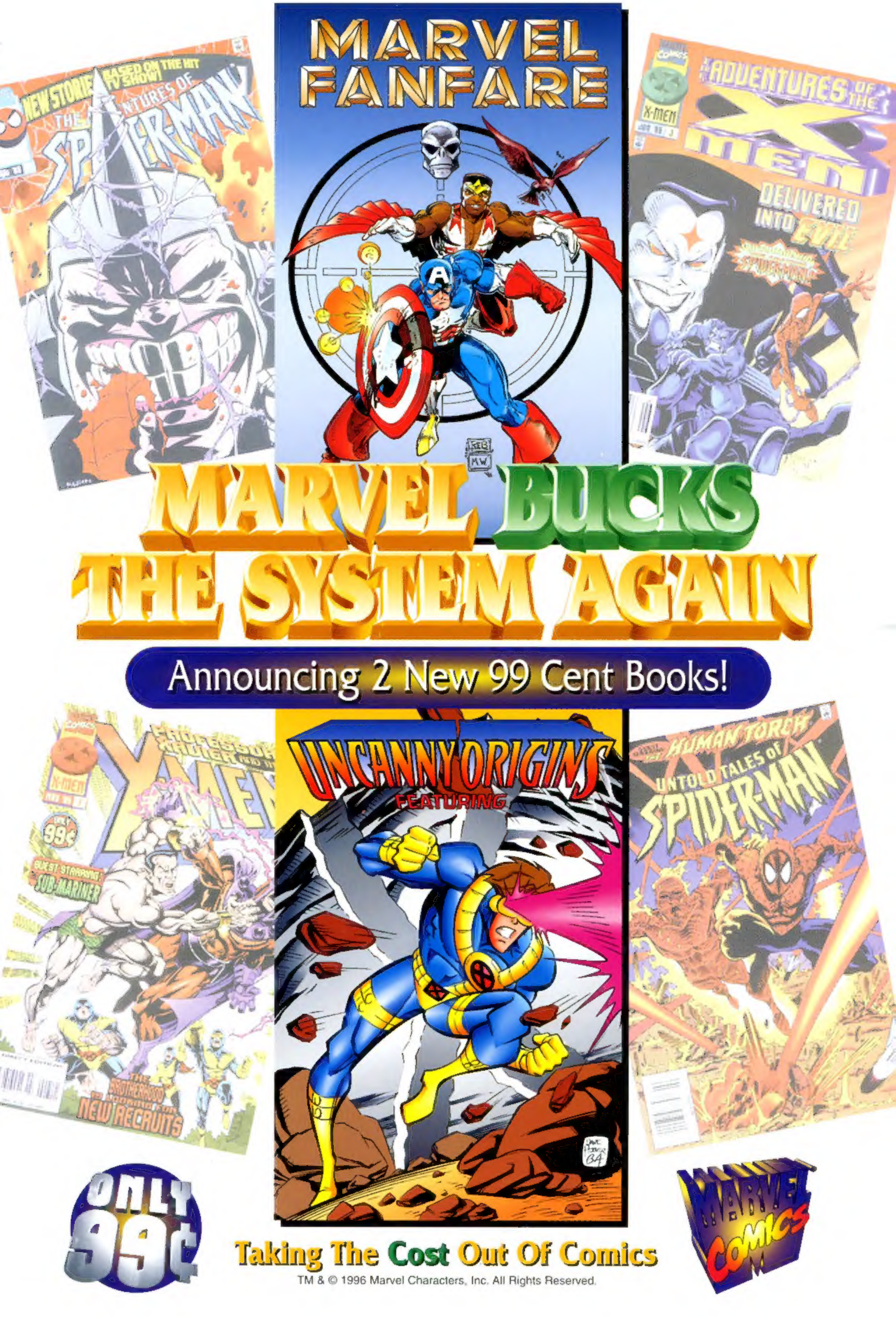
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